

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk May 3, 2015

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Mid edition No 658

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

GENERAL ELECTION

Time to decide

Cameron, Clegg, Miliband, Farage & Bennett write to YOU inside

BALLOT BOX

POLITICS

Councils in power shift?

Preview of local elections too

EDUCATION

Academy success story

How troubled school was transformed

REGENERATION

Theme park's fantasy scene

Fresh glimpse into Paramount resort

The Limited ŠKODA Yeti
BLACK EDITION
at Motorline ŠKODA Medway

ŠKODA Yeti Black Edition from £23,990 OTR



To book a test-drive contact:

Motorline ŠKODA Medway
26 Hoath Lane,
Wigmore, Gillingham
Kent ME8 0SW

0843 658 9764
www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

ŠKODA



Model shown is ŠKODA Yeti 2.0 TDI CR Black Edition 140PS 4x4 £23,990 OTR.
Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Yeti range: Urban 28.8 (9.8) to 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6) to 67.3 (4.2), Combined 36.2 (7.8) to 61.4 (4.6). CO₂ emissions for the Yeti range are 184 to 119g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Isn't it time for a New Garage Door?

With the ESSATI SALE, the decision's made so much easier

Our top of the range electric 'remote controlled' insulated aluminium rolling garage door - operated by hand held 'keyring' handset is currently reduced from a RRP of £2250 - to an amazing £799 inc VAT & fitting.

NOW JUST £799!
INCLUDING VAT & FREE FITTING



Price includes:

- ◆ Remote Control & keyring handset
- ◆ Includes free internal manual override
- ◆ All doors conform fully to EU safety directives
- ◆ White as standard, other colours available - ask for details
- ◆ Extremely secure auto-locking system
- ◆ Full 12 month warranty ◆ Bottom rubber weatherseal
- ◆ Price is for any sized single sized door up to 8ft 6" wide
- ◆ Double skinned aluminium with foam insulation

CALL 01245 396910

This special offer includes free fitting.

**The offer on our website does not include free fitting
To benefit from this offer you should call: 01245 396910**

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

Kent on Sunday

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



London and South of England Media Awards

Sister title of KENT LIFE

www.kentnews.co.uk

Vote for all that is good about our proud county

HOWEVER glum the weather may sometimes be, we should never lose sight of the fact that the county of Kent is a great place to live and work.

We are blessed with beautiful countryside, low crime, a stunning coastline, towns and villages of great history, and a strong sense of community.

We are close to London, with transport links which can whisk us to the capital and to the Continent. We are a county united in our sense of fair play and a desire to do what is right. In short, we should be very proud.

This Thursday we take to the polls to decide a government - in many areas of Kent at both a national and local level. What's more it is an election where, perhaps more than ever before, every vote counts - and everyone, of course, should engage in the process.

But what we



Editor **Chris Britcher**

■ Kent on Sunday and its journalists are committed to abiding by the Society of Editors Code of Practice. If you have a complaint which can't be resolved by Kent on Sunday editor Chris Britcher (chris.britcher@archant.co.uk) please contact the Independent Press Standards Organisation, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London, EC1 2JD, or via complaints@ipso.co.uk. More information about IPSO and its regulations can be found at www.ipso.co.uk

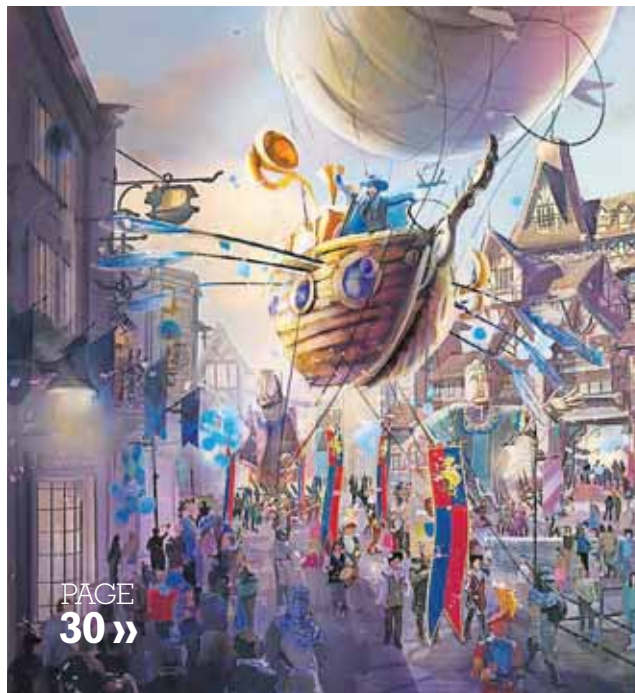
must be sure of is that the vote we make - for whatever party you choose to support - is pledged to a movement worthy of not just your support, but for our communities too. We must guard against any party that would rip the fabric of our society, that would stop us from being the inclusive, welcoming county, and indeed nation, that we are.

Never underestimate the power of your vote - it defines us as a nation for the next five years; sends a message out to the world of the sort of people we are, our values, our outlook.

We need those we elect, at all levels, to reflect our sense of pride in our nation and our desire to see our corridors of powers occupied by folk with a sound sense of what is right and wrong and the wider picture.

It's easy to think your vote doesn't make a difference.

But it does and you should wield it with care and consideration.



PAGE 30 »



PAGE 19 »



PAGE 35 »



PAGE 28 »



PAGE 9 »



PAGE 6 »

Contents

News

- 5 **Quake fears for lost son**
Family desperately waits for news
- 6 **TV star plans politics move**
Sandi Toksvig ditches News Quiz for party
- 8 **Leaders write for KoS**
Political leaders pen messages to you
- 14 **Preview of council polls**
There's more than just MPs to elect this week

- 19 **Academy turns corner**
Success story for Ashford school
- 22 **Lost plane is recovered**
Found 70 years after it went missing in war
- 24 **Fighting the superbugs**
Reassuring news from our hospitals
- 28 **Final hours of Pat Lamb**
Inquest hears about night he fell into Medway after night out



PAGE 29 »

The Arts

- 37 **Ray has the X Factor**
From TV talent show to the stage
- 41 **Midge runs through hits**
Ultravox star brings latest show to Kent

Business

- 47 **Commerce set for May 7**
What impact will there be of election?

Plus

Letters Page 46

HOW TO CONTACT US...

Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
Business: 01233 653461
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01233 653470

FOLLOW US ONLINE @

- kentnews.co.uk
- kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- jobsforkent.co.uk
- homes24.co.uk
- drive24.co.uk
- twitter@kosmedia

Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ARCHANT



Your Unforgettable Big Days Out...



See our cute new arrivals this Bank Holiday!

Plus - enjoy free fun activities and competitions with your new cheap day tickets for only **£19.95 per adult and £15.95 per child. Includes FREE activity book for kids***.

Don't forget to book online and save an extra 10%!



aspinallfoundation.org

0844 842 4647

NR. CANTERBURY, KENT, SAT NAV CT4 5EL

Stay in touch



Passport (annual pass) available. Concessions available. Children under 3 go free. *subject to availability.



» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store



» Follow us on Twitter @kosmedia or Facebook **KOS Media**

Family's agony over son missing in Nepal quake

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE family of a trekker missing after the Nepal's devastating earthquake have described the Foreign Office as "shambolic" in their desperate bid to find out information.

Matt Carapiet, 23, from Bearsted, near Maidstone, was trekking to the Langtang Valley, 20 miles north of the capital Kathmandu, two days before the earthquake.

He has not been heard of since.

However, communications have been down across much of the country since the disaster last Saturday. The 7.8 magnitude quake caused massive devastation with the death toll currently 6,000. Thousands more remain missing.

In a statement the family said: "Langtang Village was almost destroyed in a landslide, as were several smaller villages nearby. Matt may have stayed there, or he may have walked back to lower villages where survivors are known to be stranded."

They claim they registered his name and their details with the Foreign Office, but when they rang



DEVASTATED: Thousands are believed dead following earthquake in Nepal

for a progress check, claimed staff had no record. They rang again, and found their own contact details were wrong. In their statement, they called the Foreign Office effort "shambolic".

They added that their son, who was due to start a masters degree in architecture, already had a knee injury.

His sister Christina, 25, told the Daily Mail: "We are all really worried, we are just praying for a

miracle really. We haven't heard any news at all. I just want to say to Matt, we miss you and please get in touch as soon as you can."

The Foreign Office has not yet made a comment about the complaints.

Also understood to be missing is Derek Waters, 56, from Dartford.

Rachel Lovera, from Tonbridge, suffered a 36-hour wait before she was contacted by her trekking son Seb saying he was safe. She told

other families: "Don't give up hope."

It is thought the death toll is set to rise even further and could pass 10,000, including relatives of Gurkhas based in Kent.

The Gurkha Peace Foundation, based in Ashford, has been collecting money to help victims. Chairman Brian Staley said: "We will be working with other organisations but every penny we collect will go direct to Nepal."

Shutdown of nuclear reactor at Dungeness as part of £30m scheme

A NUCLEAR reactor at Dungeness power station has been taken off-line.

The shutdown is part of a £30 million maintenance programme known as a 'statutory outage' which should also provide a shot in the arm to the local community, with hundreds of extra staff drafted in to carry out the specialist work.

It gives plant technicians the chance to examine areas of the reactor they wouldn't be able to when it is operational.

More than 11,000 separate pieces of work will take place during the shutdown, with inspections inside the reactor and also new equipment installations.

Statutory outages are normally planned years in advance, taking place at plants around the country every three years. The plant's workforce will be expanded during the shutdown, with an extra 500 staff joining the site's normal 550 strong team. That, says the EDF

Energy – the plant's owner – will give a boost to the local economy.

Steve Coates, plant manager at Dungeness B, said: "The team here at Dungeness B is ready for what will be a busy time for the station and they will be supported by many hundreds of contractors.

"It's good news for the local economy which will see benefits for local shops, taxis, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and hotels."

During the shutdown, the plant also advises National Grid to ensure there are no problems with electricity supply as a result of the outage. Dungeness B's other reactor is due to continue operating normally throughout the period.

The power station says an additional £4.5m will be invested in key projects this year, with enhancements made to the plant to improve performance until the end of its life in 2028. Between now and its closure, EDF has committed to investing £150 million.

TfL chief sorry for calling Southeastern service 's**t'

TRANSPORT for London chief Sir Peter Hendy has been forced into a grovelling apology after calling services by train firm Southeastern "s**t" in a recent interview.

The commissioner for London's transport made the remarks during a recently interview, comparing ticket staff with "the Gestapo" and claiming that commuters were forced into a

"Wild West" environment.

But this week Sir Peter wrote to David Statham, managing director of Southeastern. He said: "My comment is unjustified and excessive and I apologise.

"I know everyone there is doing their best to offer a good service in the context of the franchise you have and the infrastructure you operate on."

Bloodied dead birds found tied to fences in grisly display

THE RSPCA says it appealing for information after a string of gruesome finds along a road where birds had been tied by their neck to fences.

The upsetting sight was spotted by passers-by along George Hill Road in Broadstairs on April 19, but only revealed this week.

The various birds, which included chickens, magpies and

crows, were found covered in blood and some tied with string around their necks to fences and gate posts.

RSPCA inspector Deborah Pert said: "We have no idea about what could have happened here and are asking anyone with any information about these incidents to let us know on 0300 123 8018. We are concerned about how they died."



» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store



» Follow us on Twitter @kosmedia or Facebook **KOS Media**

Have I Got News For You 'broke law' says Ukip

KENT Police says it will not be taking action against comments made by a guest on TV's Have I Got News For You, which left Ukip leader Nigel Farage fuming.

During the show, Sunday Times journalist Camilla Long made claims about how much time Mr Farage has spent in the South Thanet constituency in which he is standing at the general election.

Ukip claimed that broke the law on making false claims about a candidate during an election.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "It was suggested the comments breached the Representation of the People Act. The matter has been reviewed by officers but there's no evidence of any offences and there will be no further action."



CHANGE: Sandi Toksvig

Toksvig forms 'pragmatic' political party

TV AND radio presenter Sandi Toksvig has revealed she quit as host of topical BBC Radio 4 panel game the News Quiz as she plans to start a new political party.

The star, who has a home in Herne Bay, says she intends to set up the party, to be called the Women's Equality Party.

It follows her surprise announcement earlier this week that she was stepping down as host of the News Quiz after nine years.

Speaking to the BBC, she said: "I have made jokes over and over again about politics and, do you know, this election I've had enough.

"And I have decided that instead of making jokes about it, I need to participate. It is a fantastic group of women – and indeed men – who have decided that enough is enough and we need to make some changes."

She said they hoped to get MPs elected by the time of the 2020 election. No candidates will be fielded for next week's election.

She added: "It's not going to be right or left. It's going to be a very pragmatic, female approach to things, which is to say, 'What is the problem that we have in front of us? And what is the most practical and possible way in which we can solve this?'"

Duo present ambitious double vision for future of failed former airport

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE owners of Manston Airport have unveiled – for the first time – dramatic details of their plans for the former airfield, which includes a water park and nature zone.

But they have been dismissed by opponents who insist the Thanet airport should be re-opened.

Two separate plans have been unveiled. One dubbed Live, Work, Play and the other Leisure and Arts.

The airport closed last May, despite opposition, and has remained closed ever since.

The then-owner, Ann Gloag, failed to get the freight and passenger deals necessary to make it a going concern so shut it claiming it was losing £10,000 a day.

Since then, she sold 80 per cent of her stake to developers Chris Cartner and Trevor Musgrove, the duo who helped drive Discovery Park forward after the withdrawal of Pfizer.

In a statement, the duo said: "We



PROPOSAL: Leisure scheme

believe the focus should be on creating a sustainable development which is socially, environmentally and economically viable.

"More will be revealed later this summer when a period of public

consultation begins. Live, Work, Play has three distinct areas – commercial, residential and parkland – with a central civic hub offering a range of facilities. The runway will be retained, becoming the main road link for the site, set within new parkland open for all to enjoy."

It also includes what is termed a 'water-based leisure hub'.

Leisure and Arts has a different focus. The pair explained: "Commercial and housing zones would be complemented with arts trails, a sculpture park with the site's heritage preserved with parkland, as well as the existing museums."

But Ruth Bailey, standing in South Thanet for the Manston Airport Independent Party, said the plans were all "pie in the sky".

She said: "A few people have said the plans look like a child has taken some crayons to a piece of paper, and drawn things that everyone would like in a perfect world. If the airport re-opened then there would be jobs created straight away. The whole thing is petulant and childish."

University ranks high in education guide

THE University of Kent has been ranked highly in a respected guide - putting it comfortably in the top 25 institutions in the country.

According to the Complete University Guide, it came 22nd out of a total of 126.

The guide rates universities on 10 measures that include research quality, research intensity and student satisfaction.

The university's senior deputy vice chancellor David Nightingale said: "Kent's strong league table results continue with this latest announcement, which comes during what has been a highly successful year for the university.

"This result is also further good news for our students and staff, all of whom have helped establish Kent's excellent reputation on the regional, national and international level."

The university, based in Canterbury, was particularly highly ranked for its architecture, social policy, American studies and hospitality, leisure, recreation and tourism courses.

Last post for seaside branch sparks protest

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the main Post Office in Whitstable staged a sit-in on Wednesday night.

The 15-strong group took over the post office from 5.30pm, stating that they wanted to ensure the service remained in the town.

The Gladstone Road outlet shut this week with users now having to travel to nearby towns.

Campaigner Julie Wassmer, said: "The action is a last resort by residents to highlight the closure of post offices up and down the country following the privatisation of Royal Mail – which left the unprofitable part of the business, the Post Office, to flounder."

The peaceful occupation concluded in the early hours of Thursday morning.

A spokesman for the Post Office says it hopes to open a temporary office in the Gladstone Road car park in due course in order to ensure no extended break in provision for the town. It says it continues to hold discussions about opening a counter in the town as a franchise. A protest earlier in the town was attended by around 400 people.

Caution for teen who lied about alley rape

A 16-year-old girl has been cautioned for wasting police time after making up a story about being raped by a stranger.

A full-scale investigation had been launched on December 8 after the girl contacted police saying she had been attacked in Astley Avenue, Dover.

House-to-house enquiries were conducted and extensive work carried out.

But the investigation highlighted numerous anomalies and the alleged victim was arrested some weeks later for perverting the course of justice. She subsequently admitted that she had not been raped nor was she in the Astley Avenue area at the time.

Detectives referred the matter to the Crown Prosecution Service and this week the 16-year-old was formally cautioned for wasting police time.

Det Sgt Fiona Mattholite, said: "A huge amount of police time and resources were wasted investigating false claims. Not only were valuable police resources diverted but the claims of a stranger rape in the area caused local residents a great deal of concern."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

LIVE election results at kentnews.co.uk

AFTER all the hype, the county finally takes to the polling stations on Thursday bringing to an end one of the most intriguing general election campaigns in recent history.

With all the polls predicting a hung parliament, Kent will be a key focus of the national media with two crunch seats being contested.

South Thanet could see Nigel Farage finally elected to Westminster for Ukip, while Mark Reckless would appear to be fighting a tough battle to cling on to his Ukip seat in Rochester and Strood.

The polls open from 7am on Thursday morning and close at 10pm. The first results are not



expected until the early hours of the morning.

For a full results service throughout the night, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Watch out for rail works over the long weekend

TRAIN travellers are urged to check before they set out over this bank holiday weekend due to engineering works being conducted by Network Rail.

There will be no trains to Charing Cross or Waterloo East until Tuesday. Cannon Street services only run on Monday. Services will be diverted to

Victoria and Blackfriars.

Meanwhile, work to build Rochester's new station and resignall the railway through the Medway towns continues with buses replacing trains between Meopham/Strood and Gillingham on all three days.

There are other works taking place across the network too.

...also

Victoria in 3,000 shots

SHOPPERS at the Royal Victoria Place complex in Tunbridge Wells can see a recently unveiled portrait of Queen Victoria - comprising 3,000 images submitted by members of the public.

It marks the centre's 21st anniversary.

Direct service begins

EUROSTAR starts its first full week of a year-round service direct to the south of France this week.

The services runs from London, via Ebbsfleet and Ashford, to Lyon, Avignon and Marseille.

Fun down at the castle

HEVER Castle will be expecting bumper crowds this weekend for its May Day Festival this weekend.

Events at the historic site near Edenbridge, childhood home to Anne Boleyn, continue through until Monday.

Avoid using our A&Es

GPs are appealing to people to take extra care this bank holiday weekend to avoid putting a strain on A&E departments.

They advise taking minor injuries to minor injury units or to check with pharmacists for treatments.

Clarkes
furnishing your home

21 DAY
SALE

30%
OFF
RRP

 **nolte**
UPHOLSTERY MOBEL

UP TO
40%
OFF
RRP

SHOWROOM
MODELS

ercol
ENGLAND SINCE 1920

50%
OFF
RRP

SHOWROOM
MODELS

VISPRING
Luxury Beds - London 1901


THE INNOVATORS OF COMFORT™

GARDEN FURNITURE AVAILABLE FROM
STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY


Boston
150cm x 91cm Rectangular Table
with Corner Sofa and 3 Stools
Was £1577 **NOW £995**


Florida
120cm Round Table and
4 Chairs
Was £875 **NOW £595**

LIMITED STOCK AVAILABILITY | ONE-OFFS | IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

 www.clarkesfurnishers.co.uk
Sandling Road Maidstone, Kent ME14 2RF 01622 753073

Clarkes
furnishing your home



Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...

Leaders reach out to YOU

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ACROSS the following few pages, in a series of articles penned especially for you, the leaders of the main political parties make a last desperate appeal to the Kent voter for their support as the nation goes to the polls this Thursday.

Over the following pages, David Cameron, Ed Miliband, Nigel Farage, Nick Clegg and Natalie Bennett write for KoS, setting out their vision and what they can do for Kent.

In what has been an election simply too close to call, every single vote is vital. You may have an MP sat on a sizeable majority where you live, but it is worth remembering that if everyone spent the time to get involved in the democratic process, every seat could become a marginal.

Because those who traditionally don't vote are the ones who could make all the difference. Your vote is vital. Your vote can make all the difference.

The rise of Ukip in the build-up to this election has had a remarkable impact on the way key seats are likely to fall.

While it would take a remarkable



VOTE: Make sure you exercise your democratic right in an election which could go to the wire

swing towards Nigel Farage's party for him to, realistically, return more than two MPs in the county, the erosion of support pulled in from other parties - most notably the Conservatives - could make a huge difference.

Not only could it eat into the Tory majority of many incumbents, it could potentially split the vote so dramatically the likes of Labour or the

Liberal Democrats could spring a surprise.

Which means this Thursday will be one full of drama and excitement. But don't let it pass you by. Don't think politics doesn't have a direct and very real impact on your life. It does.

Everything from the provision of all your local services, the way the police operate, how our children and

grandchildren are taught at school, even the general mood of the nation, is influenced by those we elect, at both a local and national level, on Thursday.

And this is your big chance to ensure you have a clear and equal say in what direction this nation heads in. Don't let this opportunity pass you by - be sure to vote on May 7.

**LIVE RESULTS AT
KENTNEWS.CO.UK**

DON'T miss a moment of the excitement as it unfolds during the evening of May 7 and into the morning of May 8 at our website, www.kentnews.co.uk.

We will be bringing you the results as they happen from around the county, as well as live updates from South Thanet - the seat where all eyes will be on the outcome as the Tories, Labour and Ukip all bid to land a seat which, should Ukip lose, could spell the end of Nigel Farage as the party's leader.

You can tune into our LIVE coverage throughout the night at www.kentnews.co.uk - a service which will continue into Friday as our reporters compile all the results, bring you the latest reaction, and also start providing the results from the numerous local elections taking place across the county.

The polls close at 10pm and the first results of the Westminster polls are expected to start emerging in the early hours of the morning.

Counting for the local elections is not starting until the morning of the Friday in many areas, with results not expected until later in the day or early evening.

Are you looking for **avante** care & support care & support 'Everyone Matters'

Avante Care & Support provides care to over 3000 people across Kent and South East London, either through its homecare service or specialist dementia care homes. The home care team deliver care and support directly into people's homes allowing clients to stay living independently in their own home environment. Home care and support services include personal care, medication assistance, day to day housework tasks and respite care.

If you are looking for a care home Avante Care & Support has 13 homes located across Kent and London, each providing specialist dementia care. Other care services available through the care homes include short term respite care, day care and also nursing care at Puddingstone Grange, (our care home in Greenwich).

No matter what care package is required, Avante Care & Support can help you.

Everyone matters at Avante Care & Support

enquiry@avantecare.org.uk

Head Office - 01795 597400

www.avantecare.org.uk



We are an approved Provider for
Kent County Council, Medway
Council and Bexley Council



Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...

Let us finish the job

David Cameron is seeking re-election as prime minister and warns a vote against the Conservative Party, which dominates Kent's political landscape, would spell doom for the country.

THE election on May 7 is the fight of our national life – and a key battle line is running right through the heart of Kent.

The Conservative message at this election could not be more clear: stick with the plan that is turning our country around.

Last year we were the fastest-growing economy in the developed world. There are 760,000 more businesses than in 2010. An amazing 1000 jobs have been created every single day since Conservatives came to office.

People across Kent are keeping more of their own money, with income taxes cut by £825 for the typical taxpayer. Thousands of teenagers have started their adult lives not by signing on but starting an apprenticeship. Pensioners from Rochester to Dover have seen their state pensions rise by £950, giving them more dignity and security in retirement.

This plan is about giving you security at every stage of your life – and the Conservative manifesto builds on it.

In its pages are plans for three million more apprenticeships and 200,000 starter homes for young first-time buyers. A Conservative Government would help to let you keep more of your hard-earned money – no 40p tax until you're earning £50,000, and the income-tax free allowance raised to £12,500.

For young families, we would double the amount of free childcare available to working parents of three and four year olds; 30 free hours a week – equivalent to £5,000.

Conservatives have also made a clear commitment to protect our NHS. There's a simple reason we can do that: because we have built a strong economy. That's why we'd finish the job, clearing Britain's deficit, running a surplus by 2018, and insuring our economy against future shocks.

All this is at stake in May. The big question is: do you want to stick with the competent team that has got us this far – or do you want to head into the chaos of Ed Miliband and Labour

being propped up by the SNP?

We are looking down the barrel of a truly chaotic scenario: with every vote in Parliament, Ed Miliband would rely on SNP support. That would mean Nicola Sturgeon making fresh demands each time – for more borrowing, taxes and welfare. The British people will pick up the bill. And with Westminster locked in permanent chaos, our economic progress would judder to a halt.

You might think: 'my vote doesn't have anything to do with that' – but it does now more than ever. We are just 23 seats short of a Conservative majority Government that would be strong, decisive and accountable. A vote for any other party makes it harder for Conservatives to get those 23 constituencies and keep Labour and the SNP out.

If you vote for Ukup, that takes Ed Miliband and Nicola Sturgeon a step closer to Downing Street. And what would we get then? No in-out referendum on the EU. No control on immigration. No reform of welfare. Just



PLEA: Tory leader and prime minister David Cameron

more of the same that got Britain into the mess in the first place.

It would be a tragedy if all the hard work of the past five years were to be ruined. Only a Conservative vote in

your local constituency will secure Britain's future. So let's stick to the plan, see through the job we've started – and make our great country greater still.

QUOTE KOS04 TO GET 55% OFF* ALL WINDOWS

BUY NOW PAY JUNE 2016* ON ALL BRITELITE'S DOUBLE & TRIPLE GLAZED WINDOWS!

Britelite is the largest double glazing company to be Kent Trading Standards Approved

Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Call Free 0800 50 50 70

Visit our website for a FREE online quote

www.britelitewindows.co.uk

*Off list price for orders placed by midnight 28/06/2015. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
#Buy Now Pay Later Example: Example, £2,500 less £250 deposit, balance £2,250 nothing further to pay for 12 months.

**ONLY 12
APARTMENTS
REMAINING**

THE QUAYS

CHATHAM MARITIME

BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

**FOR WATERSIDE TOWER
LIVING IN MEDWAY**

**COME AND TALK TO US FIRST ABOUT
OUR HIGH SPEC APARTMENTS WITH
SUPERB VIEWS.**



**PRICES FROM
ONLY £137,000**

**01634 890 594
THEQUAYSCHATHAM.COM**

SHOW APARTMENTS NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 10AM - 6PM





Fighting for justice

Labour leader **Ed Miliband** appears to be edging ahead in the polls, but in Kent he faces a tough challenge in a county so traditionally blue. He writes to explain why Kent should vote for his party...

THIS election offers voters a clear choice between the Tories' failed plan for Britain - and a better Labour plan that offers hope for you, your family, the county of Kent and our country.

Running through our plan is a single, simple idea: that Britain only succeeds when working people succeed.

The Tories offer more of the same old ideology that says they only need to look after a few at the top and everyone else will get dragged along behind. They say that what's good for the richest and most powerful is always good for the whole country. Their problem is that last five years have proven them wrong.

They boast about an economic recovery but, while it may have brought the banker bonuses back to the City of London, it has not reached the front door of families in your part of the world.

Average wages are down £1,600 since David Cameron entered Downing Street, energy bills have risen by a £300 a year, millions are stuck in low-paid insecure jobs, and home owner-

ship has fallen to its lowest level for 30 years.

The people of Kent know how the Tories' approach has let down their communities. Cuts have forced Kent County Council to turn out street lights at night. Primary schools under Conservative control in Medway are ranked the worst in the country and the Medway Maritime Hospital is in special measures.

In some areas patients have been forced to queue outside GP surgeries after a £3 billion unnecessary, top down reorganisation of the NHS.

Payday lenders and gambling outlets blight your high streets. By supporting Labour candidates like Tristan Osborne in Chatham and Aylesford and Clair Hawkins in Dover and Deal, you can return a Labour government which will reverse five years of Tory mistakes and properly support working families.

We'll put in place stronger controls on immigration too, strengthening our borders so we can count people in and out and deal with illegal immigration, easing the burden on towns like Dover. And people who come here

won't be able to claim benefits for at least two years, because it's important to pay in before you take out.

Remember that the Tories have utterly failed to meet their immigration targets. Their manifesto is full of hollow pledges - unfunded and unbelievable promises which don't add up.

Every one of Labour's policies is paid for without requiring any extra borrowing because we know that the nation still faces tough times. So we will cut the deficit every year, raise living standards or working families and ask those with the broadest shoulders - particularly the super-rich avoiding their taxes - to carry more of the burden.

Labour will cut taxes for small businesses, reverse David Cameron's millionaire's tax cut, close the loopholes that favour off-shore hedge funds, and ask the owners of properties worth more than £2 million to help pay for vital investment in our NHS.

Only Labour has a real plan with real money as a down-payment on our commitment to stop the NHS sliding backwards: a £2.5 billion 'Time to Care Fund' which will pay for 20,000



READY: Labour leader Ed Miliband

more nurses, 8,000 more GPs, 5,000 more homecare workers and 3,000 more midwives.

Only Labour will reward hard work by raising the minimum wage to more than £8 an hour by October 2019, as well as freezing energy bills, so they can fall but not rise, until 2017.

Only Labour has the policies to re-

store the dream of home ownership, which is becoming elusive for so many people in Kent and elsewhere, by building at least 200,000 new homes a year nationally with priority for local first time buyers.

If you elect a Labour government on May 7, be sure that I am ready to fight for you, every single day.

Extending influence

Nigel Farage's rise to a political force has been meteoric. As he prepares to fight for South Thanet, here he tells you why the Ukip surge in Kent is only set to continue.

UKIP is a powerful campaigning and political force in Kent. The party has made huge strides in the Garden of England over the past five years, and this election marks an opportunity for you to vote for a political party that represents you and your views at both a local and national level.

We're the official opposition on Kent County Council, and we're fielding huge slates of candidates for council elections also taking place on May 7. In short, I guess you could say that Ukip takes Kent very seriously indeed. Not just because the people here naturally gravitate towards us politically, but I suppose you might say that it being my home, and me being a champion of the area, and an MEP for it for the past 16 years, has helped a great deal.

And we genuinely try incredibly hard here on big issues that matter in Kent.

Just recently, Ukip conducted a ma-

ior survey of residents to ascertain whether or not they supported the Conservative government's plans to build hundreds of thousands of new houses across our greenfields. The answer, as you can imagine, was a resounding, 'no'.

This is the crucial difference between Ukip and the other parties. We actually consult residents. We actually try and represent your views. And mostly, this is because we are just like you. Real people, with real life experience, trying to do the best by our local areas.

I believe this is one of the reasons we topped the polls here in the European elections last year. Ukip got 751,439 votes last May, 32 percent of the vote, and returned four MEPs for the south east region.

One of the particular highlights of last year of course, was when the Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood, Mark Reckless, resigned his seat, joined Ukip, and forced a by-election. The fact that he won, despite

the Conservative Party promising to "throw the kitchen sink" at us, not only showed the great appeal of Ukip in Kent, and disproved the old "wasted vote" myth, but it also displayed the honour that Ukip is trying to inject back into British politics.

Mr Reckless could, as others have done, simply crossed the floor in the House of Commons, and sat as a Ukip MP without consulting his constituents. But he did what I think was one of the most honourable, and risky things that our politics has seen in decades. And Kent voters gave him the approval he deserves.

Ukip is the only party that really gets the concerns of Kent residents - a county which has found itself at the front lines of England for centuries.

We understand the concerns about mass immigration and the housing crisis that London's Conservative Mayor intends to shift onto Kent. We understand that core national infrastructure like Manston Airport needs a viable future. And we understand



CONFIDENT: Ukip leader Nigel Farage

that with schools, GP surgeries, hospitals, our fisheries, and our roads under increasing strain, we have to draw a line under the past eleven years of mass immigration, and get the people of this county a real, free and fair ref-

erendum on the European Union.

You saw it in Rochester and Strood, and in the European elections. If you vote Ukip, you get Ukip - and that's exactly what I urge you all to go out and do on May 7.



Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...Countdown to polling day...**May 7**...

Anchored in centre

Nick Clegg, deputy prime minister and leader of the Liberal Democrats, reflects on five years in coalition and what his party has done for you...

AMidst all the breathless speculation and ever-changing predictions, there's one thing all the pundits, pollsters and forecasters agree on about next month's election. No one is going to win it outright.

The choice before you on May 7 is therefore not who will be prime minister, but who you want sitting round the cabinet table, and who you want representing you in Parliament.

Since 2010, the Liberal Democrats have demonstrated time and again that we're capable of taking the tough decisions to clear up the mess Labour left. We've cut the deficit in half while protecting spending on the NHS and schools, giving pensioners a record rise in the state pension and cutting income tax by £825 for 27 million people.

But we've also shown that we're prepared to stand up to the Tories and stop their extreme policies that

would damage our country. We stopped them from allowing bosses to fire workers without reason, letting companies run schools for a profit and cutting the pay of public sector workers outside London.

If you put the Lib Dems back in Government, we'll continue to anchor it firmly in the centre ground, keeping us moving forward along the path to prosperity. We won't let the Tories and Ukip drag us off to the Right, or Labour and the SNP drag us off to the Left.

We'll finish the job of balancing the books, and finish it fairly. We'll eliminate the deficit on time in 2018, by cutting spending where necessary but asking the rich to pay their fair share too. And once we've done so, we won't go on cutting for cutting's sake as George Osborne proposes. We'll use proceeds from our hard-won economic recovery to give the NHS the money it needs and to invest in roads, railways and homes.

We'll borrow £70 billion less than

Labour and cut £50 billion less than the Conservatives, reducing the national debt while protecting the public services on which we all rely.

Across Kent, Liberal Democrat candidates are working hard to strengthen the local economy and make Britain fairer, and they need your support to do it. In Maidstone, for example, the excellent Jasper Gerard is campaigning to protect the education budget from cradle to college, to give every child the best possible start in life.

The Liberal Democrats have already given Kent schools more than £130 million through our pupil premium to support disadvantaged children, and introduced free school meals for all of Kent's 50,000 infants.

We've also invested heavily in apprenticeships, and more than two million people have started one since 2010, including 47,000 in Kent, and Jasper and I got to speak to some of them when we visited Mid-



DETERMINED: Nick Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats

Kent College recently.

With Lib Dems like Jasper Gerard representing you in Parliament, and the Liberal Democrats fighting for

you every day in Government, we can build a stronger economy and a fairer society, creating opportunity for everyone.

Equality at its heart

Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party is convinced that if you want to vote outside of the three traditional main parties, then her organisation is the one you should choose

NTHIS election, there is one party that offers voters a choice different from that of the Establishment parties.

One party that wants a politics which works for the benefit of everyone, not just the wealthiest or the most powerful.

One party which pledges to preserve the environment, protect the NHS and make sure everyone is paid fairly for the work they do.

That party is the Green Party. A vote for the Greens is a vote for real change, a vote to end the politics of fear, a vote to end austerity. A vote for the Green Party is a vote for the common good.

On the NHS, the Green Party pledges to repeal the damaging Health and Social Care Act, which has seen government pass its responsibility to provide free, universal healthcare onto private companies who profit from people's ill health.

The Green Party believes profit has no place in healthcare. We will maintain a publicly funded, publicly provided health service free at the point of use. We will increase the overall NHS budget, increase investment in mental healthcare and provide for free den-

tistry and prescriptions.

We will provide free social care for older people and place more emphasis on prevention of ill-health and on primary and community care.

We will ensure that everyone who wants one has a decent secure job, and is paid at least a living wage (we will make the minimum wage a living wage, which we will raise to £10/hour by 2020).

We will stabilise and tightly regulate the financial sector, whose greed and recklessness have been a major cause of our recent economic difficulties. We will create a robust taxation system that promotes equality and sustainability.

The Green Party wants an economy which benefits everyone, which promotes equality and fairness and which treats everyone with respect.

The Green Party also recognises that climate change is the great crisis of our age, and we need to take real, meaningful action to tackle it. We will provide a free nationwide retrofit insulation programme, concentrating on areas where fuel poverty is most serious. This will insulate nine million homes in total, and take at least two million homes out of fuel poverty.

We will invest in the generation of renewable energy, oppose fracking and end subsidies to fossil fuels. We will take action to tackle air pollution, which causes an estimated 29,000 premature deaths each year in the UK, and reduce air pollution in the UK to comply with EU limits.

Britain has the wealth and resources to do great things. We can build an economy that gives everyone their fair share of the world's sixth richest economy. We can create a humane, caring society that supports everyone's needs.

And we can be a world leader in tackling the threat of climate change.

A vote for the Green Party on May 7 is an opportunity to live up to this potential and to create a society that works in the best interests of everyone.



CHANGE: Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party

PICK UP OUR RESULTS SPECIAL EDITION NEXT WEEK

PICK up next weekend's Kent on Sunday for our general election results special.

We will bring you the full outcome of every constituency in the county, complete with a map of how Kent's new political landscape will look once all the

votes have been counted.

In addition, we will bring you all the latest reaction to the ups and downs of the election results and what it means to you.

Our special edition will be hitting the shelves on Saturday - just hours after the final votes

have been counted.

And, best of all, just like every week, the Kent on Sunday general election special edition will be completely free.

Pick it up at supermarkets or garages or read the e-edition at www.kentnews.co.uk.



Established 1981
SupaGlazing
 Limited
 Over 57,000 customers!

Introducing the... **Supa Diamond**

A rated, **ANY** size, **ANY** number
 of openers, White UPVC

DOUBLE GLAZED

4	WINDOWS £1,512. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
5	WINDOWS £1,890. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
6	WINDOWS £2,268. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
7	WINDOWS £2,646. ⁰⁰ inc VAT

TRIPLE GLAZED

4	WINDOWS £1,891. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
5	WINDOWS £2,364. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
6	WINDOWS £2,836. ⁰⁰ inc VAT
7	WINDOWS £3,309. ⁰⁰ inc VAT

All inclusive of fitting, survey, guarantee & includes
 Pilkington Energikare saving glass. Did you know triple glazing
 only saves an extra 0.5% on average which is about £3 per year.

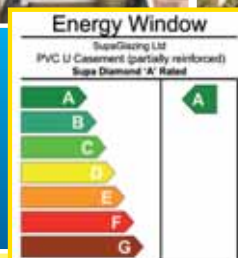
The choice is yours!



A Rated Windows

- Pilkington Optiwhite™ (outer pane)
- Argon gas filling with warm edge spacer
- Pilkington K Glass™ OW (inner pane)

A Rated Windows



Our Sale Now On!

...Kent's leading double glazing manufacturer



20%
OFF ALL
 Conservatories
 & Orangeries



BEFORE

Convert your
 conservatory into
 a usable all year
 round sun-porch with
 the **SupaLite** tiled
 roof system



AFTER

An extra
£100 off
 on production
 of this advert*

Celebrating over 34 years of beautiful windows...Guaranteed

Finance available subject to status,
 written quotations available on request.



Hurry!
 Offers end
 12th
 May

Don't just
 glaze it,
Supaglaze it!

All of our installers are CRB checked.

Knight Road, Strood (opposite Morrisons)

01634 294 696

Open 6 days a week
 Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

2 Roman Square, Sittingbourne
 13 Lowfield Street, Dartford

01795 422 877
01322 290 525

AS HEARD ON heart
 1031 1023



Profile: BS7950 BS7413
 Door Lock: BS3621
 Toughened Glass:
 BSEN12150-1

Factory awarded British Safety Council Safety Award: Every Year Since 1984

Head office and factories at Deacon Trading Centre, Knight Road, Strood.



Like us on Facebook

www.supaglazing.com



Follow us on Twitter





Mercedes-Benz

Service Care for your Sprinter, Vito & Citan



Less Uncertainty, Cost and Hassle. More Flexibility, Service and Care.

We know it's important for you to be able to plan financially - and that unexpected servicing costs are something you'd rather do without.

It's a genuinely affordable option, with prices starting at just **£19.20 inc VAT** a month for three services.

What's included:

Routine service labour costs	■
Routine service parts	■
Routine service lubricants	■
Transferable to new owner when vehicle sold (if Plan paid for upfront)	■
Emergency road side assistance	△
Recovery to nearest Mercedes-Benz authorised repairer	△
Fast track preferential authorisation and processing	■
Monthly paid contract	■
Prepaid contract	■
Provision of replacement vehicle	△
Available on any vehicle age	■

■ Standard cover

△ Available free, for the first three years from registration date.

For any vehicles registered after 1 Oct 2012, cover is available for up to 30 years under MobiloVan UK and associated terms and conditions.

**Call us today and ask for Andy Clack
or find out more by visiting our website...**

www.sparshatts.co.uk

0844 396 1122

Ashford Dartford Sittingbourne Tonbridge



Countdown to polling day...May 7



Battle for local council power to reach climax on polling day

Many of us will get to cast more than one vote on Thursday as there are hundreds of council seats up for grabs too, reports **Maria Chiorando...**

WHEN May 7 dawns, a battle will be waged at the ballot box.

But the battle is not just for seats in Parliament.

Away from the cut and thrust of Westminster, voting also opens for many councils. And those wielding power at local level arguably have more clout when it comes to the decisions that affect our day-to-day lives.

The question many are asking is whether the chaos at national level - where no party is likely to take overall control - will filter into local politics? After all, with some councils' balance of power teetering on a knife edge,

anything could potentially happen. And with a national surge of popularity for smaller parties including Ukip and the Greens, will their numbers swell at a local level?

Labour's Vince Maple is the leader of the opposition on Medway Council. He describes the local elections as the 'biggest single day of democracy in Medway', with the council seeing all 55 of its seats up for grabs.

As a unitary council, Medway is responsible for all local government functions within its area, including those often performed by the national government, for example education, planning and transport.

According to Cllr Maple: "The local elec-

Countdown to polling day...May 7...Countdown to polling day...May 7...



VOTE: Results of the local elections will not be known until late Friday



HAVE YOUR SAY: Many of us will be voting nationally and locally

tion is so important for Medway - it is when the 17 per cent of Kent, which is not under KCC, gets to have a say on how the £315 million allocated to the area is spent."

With 31 of the 55 councillors currently representing the Conservative Party, 17 Labour, along with four Ukip members and three Liberal Democrats, the council has more political variety than many others in the county, which are awash with a sea of Tory blue.

In addition, the constituency of Rochester and Strood, within Med-

way's boundaries, boasts Kent's only non-Tory MP with Mark Reckless of Ukip as the incumbent.

"The by-election last November, when Mark Reckless was elected shone a spotlight in the area," Cllr Maple explains. "It shows that there is potential for parties other than the Tories to break through - and at Labour, we have strong support in the area, and a full slate of candidates, so we're hoping to see change."

There are 12 district and borough councils in Kent (in addition to Medway unitary). They are in charge of

rubbish collection, recycling, council tax collections, housing and planning applications; the services many will have in mind when electing their candidate.

Like the general election, local elections work on the first past the post system, but there are differences too. Julie Beilby, acting returning officer and chief executive of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, says: "A UK general election usually takes place every five years while, in Tonbridge and Malling, full borough council elections take place every four years."

And in fact the organisation of the local authorities means there are several ways elections take place. Either all the councillors are elected every four years (for example, in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling), half the councillors are elected every two years (this happens in Tunbridge Wells) or a third of the councillors are elected every year for three years, with no elections in the fourth year (as in Maidstone, for example).

The stakes are highest for those councils with every seat up for election. Two of which are Gravesham and Thanet - the only councils under Labour control.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese is Labour's prospectively parliamentary candidate for Gravesham, and also the lead member for business and

Continues on Page 16

BHP

PERFORMANCE SHOW

BHPPERFORMANCESHOW.COM

9AM
TO
5PM

MONDAY MAY 4TH

9 HOURS OF ACTION
FOOD COURT,
AUTOMOTIVE TRADERS
CAR CLUBS, KIDS ZONE,
SHOWCARS,
PASSENGER RIDES

LYDDEN HILL RACE CIRCUIT, CT46ET, JUST OF THE A2
KENT'S BIGGEST CAR SHOW

£20 PER PERSON
UNDER 12'S GO FREE



Countdown to polling day...May 7...Countdown to polling day...May 7...

Continued from Page 15

the community for the council's Northfleet ward.

He says: "Both elections are important for different reasons. Obviously national issues are important because they have an impact locally. On top of that, councils are bound by the level of funding they receive, which is decided at central government level.

"Councillors work with the resources they have, but have influence over the whole range of local concerns, including issues like recycling collection and street lighting.

"This means that disillusionment with the current government could see people turning away from the Conservatives in the local elections. Gravesham is interesting, because we have a Tory MP (Adam Holloway) but a Labour-led council."

The split at Gravesham is very close, with 19 Conservative councillors to 25 Labour.

While the constituency of South Thanet finds itself in the full media glare, so too does Thanet District Council. With relatively high levels of Ukip support in the area, and front man Nigel Farage standing for Parliament, could the purple party make its influence felt?

Currently, 26 of the 56 seats are Labour. The Tories are a close second though, with 22. There is a smattering of other colours too, with three Independent councillors, two

from Ukip and one Green.

At the last election in May 2011, there was no overall control for any party, but when a Tory councillor swapped allegiances to become an Independent, the Labour Party lead a minority administration.

Ian Driver is a Green Party candidate for South Thanet and a Thanet councillor. "People on the doorstep have been clear they have had enough of the council – so I think we are going to see changes," he says. "I think that Ukip may win more ground, in the same way they will perform nationally.

"The Green Party have 13 candidates standing for the council elections, and we are hopeful that we might have some success. I think something we're seeing nationally is that there is more interest in smaller parties."

John Chappell is a Ukip candidate for the Sherwood ward in Tunbridge Wells. Unlike Thanet, even by Kent's standards, this borough is staunchly blue, with a massive 38 Conservative councillors dwarfing the three Labour, three Lib Dem, two Independent and single Ukip representatives.

Tunbridge Wells will see 17 of its 48 seats up for grabs.

Mr Chappell says: "There are some areas – and Tunbridge Wells is one of them – that will always be very Tory. But there is definitely change happening.

"It is very important for people to vote at local elections if they want to make changes in their area and get

the support they need. And what we're hearing again and again is that people are becoming disillusioned with the main parties. I believe Ukip will see success across the board."

In addition, he sees local elections as more democratic than their general counterpart.

He says: "All parties big or small tend to spend the same amount of money on promoting their candidate whereas at general elections the larger parties use a lot more money and time on promoting and canvassing. I think this means fairer representation."

Something that a number of candidates have raised is the idea of how people vote for their councillor as opposed to their MP – and how this difference could see more than a smattering of smaller parties represented alongside the main parties.

"I think some of the tactical voting people will use going into a general won't necessarily be relevant in a local," says Cllr Maple. "We say that if you vote for Labour, that is who you will get. It's a clearer message – tactical voting is very confusing."

Ian Driver, who has served for Labour, as an Independent and now the Greens, added: "There is some truth to the idea that people may vote differently

"When you have smaller wards, and a bigger chance of seeing a small party win, you may be more inclined to vote for that party. With more diversity of parties represented at the



ITS OWN BOSS: Medway controls its own destiny as a unitary authority

local level, people are possibly less likely to vote tactically, and more likely to vote with their conscience.

"But I still believe that first past the post is wrong on a local level as well as a national one – you don't get proper representation. It favours the big, traditional parties.

"Proportional representation [an electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them] would give a clearer picture of how many people were supporting a party."

While some councils may see some shake up, it is hard to see the

Tories losing their stranglehold in other boroughs. Ashford, for example, has Conservatives occupying 30 of the 43 seats – all of which are up for re-election. Tonbridge, which has had Tory MP John Stanley in place for 40 years, is unsurprisingly another Conservative stronghold, with 47 blue seats out of 54. Canterbury is another Tory area with a huge 34 blue seats out of 47.

Cllr Driver says: "While there is likely to always be a lot of Tory representation in the county, I think there's a real chance of smaller parties seeing a breakthrough."

BALLETBOYZ
An evening of style, excitement and muscular grace!

BRAND-NEW SHOW

TUE 5 MAY

<p>JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT MON 4 MAY</p>	<p>AL MURRAY THU 7 MAY</p>	<p>LEE NELSON FRI 8 MAY</p>
<p>BOOGIE NIGHTS SAT 9 MAY</p>	<p>GILBERT & SULLIVAN A LA CARTE SUN 10 MAY</p>	<p>SNOW WHITE ON ICE TUE 12 - SAT 16 MAY</p>

The Restaurant
AT THE ORCHARD THEATRE

BOOK ONLINE: ORCHARDTHEATRE.CO.UK
TICKET OFFICE: 01322 220000

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE

ACCIDENT CLAIM?

We can help with your claim for:

- Head/brain injuries (Headway Approved Solicitors 2015)
- Accidents at work
- Car and motorbike accidents
- Fatal accidents
- Trips and slips
- Medical negligence



Call **Girlings' Medical Negligence Helpdesk** on
0845 2221 999
for **FREE, no obligation** advice on your claim



www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk

KENT no win no fee specialists



BMW Economics

Stephen James
Ruxley



FROM THE HEART TO THE ROAD.

THE NEW BMW 4 SERIES CONVERTIBLE.

This is more than just a hard top convertible. It's a convertible with innovative technologies for extra comfort and ease. With more practicality than you expect, even with the top down. And with superior driving dynamics that give you control. So for once, both your heart and mind will be satisfied.



BMW Select Representative Example: BMW 420d Sport Convertible.

Term of agreement	47 monthly payments	On the road cash price*	Customer deposit	Retailer deposit contribution	BMW UK deposit contribution	BMW FS deposit contribution
48 months	£399.00	£38,964.00	£3,999.00	£3,931.95	£1,250.00	£500.00
Total deposit	Total amount of credit	Option to purchase fee^	Optional final payment^	Total amount payable	Rate of interest	
£9,680.95	£29,283.05	£1.00	£14,787.00	£43,221.95	4.9% fixed	Representative 4.9% APR

For more information or to arrange a test drive†, call us on 08442 451306 or visit www.stephenjamesruxleybmw.co.uk.

Stephen James Ruxley
Maidstone Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BG

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 4 Series Convertible: Urban 24.1–49.6mpg (11.1–5.7l/100 km). Extra Urban 44.1–65.7mpg (6.4–4.3l/100 km). Combined 33.6–58.9mpg (8.4–4.8l/100 km). CO₂ emissions 195–127g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions.

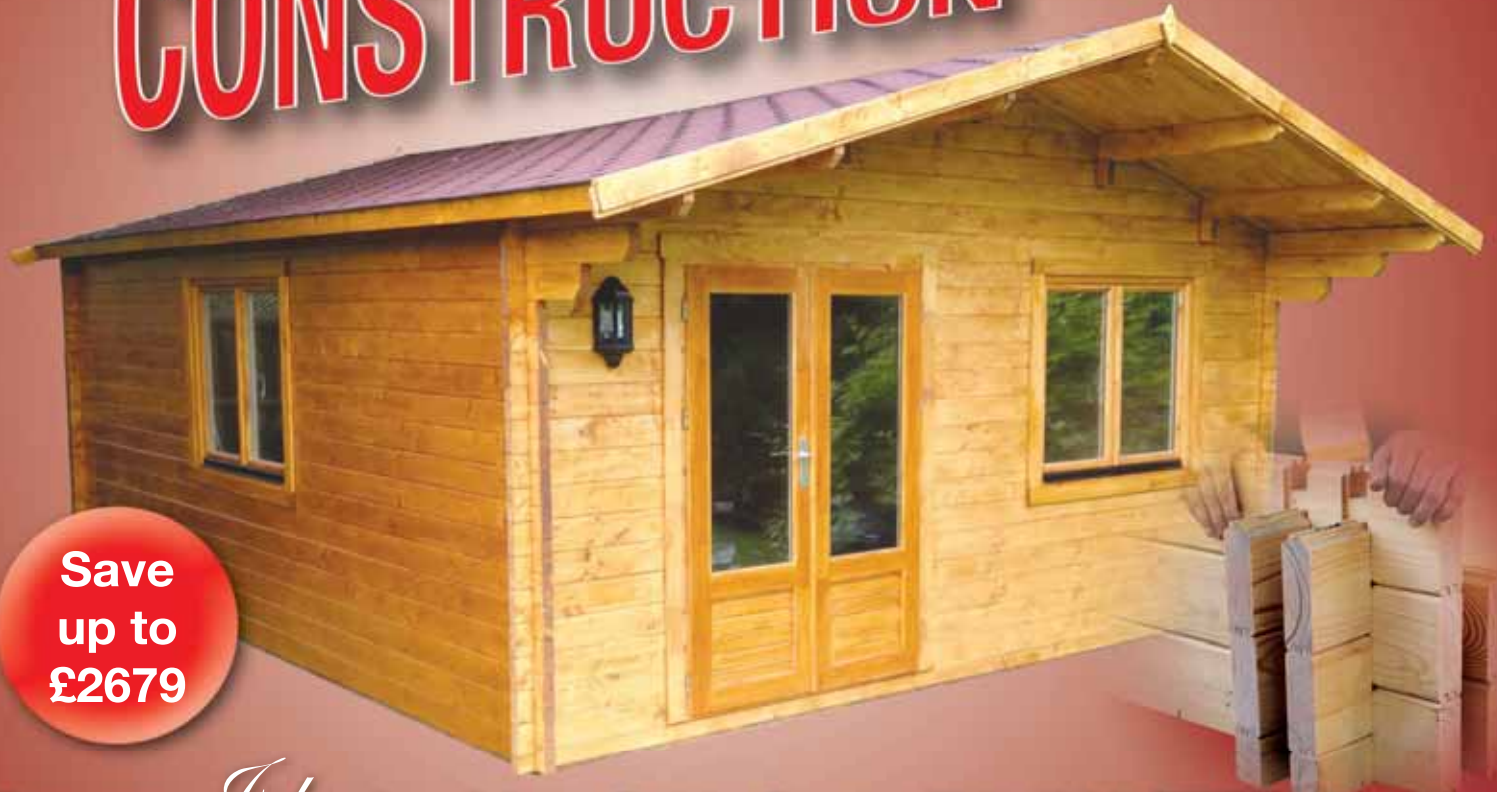
Stephen James Ruxley is a credit broker and not a lender.

Finance example is for a BMW Select agreement for a BMW 420d Sport Convertible, with a contract mileage of 36,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 9.92p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1 April and 30 June 2015 and registered by 30 September 2015 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. *On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Retailer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Optional final payment and option to purchase fee not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. 'BMW Select' is a form of hire-purchase agreement provided by BMW Financial Services (GB) Limited, Bantley Way, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UF. You will have a 14 day statutory right to withdraw from the agreement. Stephen James Trading Group LLP, trading as Stephen James Ruxley, commonly introduce customers to BMW Financial Services, for which we may receive payment if you enter into an agreement with them. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces BMW emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range. †Test drive subject to applicant status and availability.

FREE CONSTRUCTION

Limited
period
only

Save
up to
£2679



Buy any *Johnson's* Log Cabin & we will build it **FREE** of charge



Visit our website or call us now for a brochure

www.needextraspaces.co.uk 0845 4599444

Ashford, TN24 9JZ 01233 878412

Chestfield, CT5 3JD 01227 793717

Dartford, DA2 7RB 01322 294560

Gillingham, ME7 3JQ 01634 405859

Maidstone, ME14 5LH 01622 730777

Sevenoaks, TN14 7AD 01959 533466



SUCCESS: John McParland and pupils from across the year groups of the John Wallis Academy in Ashford, with has turned its fortunes around over the last five years

Principal puts faith in staff and students to transform fortunes

It has undergone three name changes, but finally one of Ashford's most troubled schools has sailed into calmer, warmer waters. **Chris Britcher** meets captain of the ship, principal John McParland

HE TURNED down a trial for Manchester United. Rejected an offer by a New York banker to make him a millionaire in the space of a year. And after years of training for the priesthood stopped short of being ordained because he didn't want a life of celibacy.

But despite changing his mind on three life-changing options, John McParland has no regrets about taking over the reins of a school with a long, troubled history and transforming it into what one education expert now describes as the county's "top non-selective".

He has the desire to succeed and win, perhaps, hot-wired into him.

His thick Irish accent exposes the roots for which he remains so proud. His age - which he refuses to reveal but let's assume he's in his 50s - disguises a remarkable sporting career which saw him become one of the most famous Gaelic football stars - a fame which would take him far and wide.

His 'regular' footballing talents could have also seen him line up

alongside the legendary George Best at Old Trafford.

In short, he has that inner drive which motivates athletes that only success is good enough. And that steely determination has been required in his current post.

The John Wallis Academy in south Ashford has been many things to many people over the years. For many of a certain age, it was known originally as the Duncan Bowen, a tough comprehensive accessed via the main road through an often troubled and frequently deprived part of the town.

Stanhope sprang up in the 1960s as a residential estate, much of it social housing, but poor design which did little to generate pride in the community, hindered any chance of recovery.

The school, always an essential cog in any community and, in many respects, a beacon of hope for the next generation, became tarred with an unwanted brush.

During the 1990s, it under went a rebrand - renamed Christ Church High and coinciding with a massive multi-million pound investment in

“When we opened in 2010, I was excluding students every day for swearing at me. It was the bad language which upset me more than the defiance.”

John McParland,
Principal, John Wallis Academy

Stanhope itself at the end of the century, designed to create living spaces which engendered community spirit and pride.

The school itself made a subtle shift too. It switched its main entrance - from one side of the site to the other. A move which saw it lose its Stanhope postcode and embrace, instead, one for neighbouring Kingsnorth.

But the school struggled and in 2010, it was announced it would become, instead, one of the new breed of academies.

Coupled with the housing sprawl which saw the once rural Kingsnorth and nearby Park Farm estates break out of their original landscapes and push into the school's catchment area, by the time the John Wallis Academy was born, much had changed.

Stanhope was much improved; the blend of housing more balanced. All the school had to do was shrug off a reputation it had failed to lose for almost 30 years.

Enter John McParland.

Poached from the successful St Simon Stock Catholic School in Maidstone, he was lured over by the academy's sponsors - a combination of Kent County Council, the Diocese of Canterbury, Canterbury Christ Church University, and the public Benenden School.

Few can have imagined the remarkable impact he would have. And his key weapons? A reassuring reliance on good old fashioned respect and good manners, underpinning a desire for pride in the surroundings.

"When we took over, the intake was around 129, down from 210 a

few years earlier; no-one wanted to come," he explains sat in his office in one of the modern new buildings which now defines the school.

"I introduced a uniform - blazer and tie - and parents were standing up and saying their children would not wear it. I simply said 'if you don't then I'm afraid your child won't be attending this academy'.

"Then I closed the gate at lunch-times and said students have to stay here, and parents complained. We had a lot of challenges. No-one wanted an academy here at the time, and it was very difficult - certainly one of the most difficult I have had in my teaching career.

"But when I look back now at what we have achieved five years later..."

The turn-around is remarkable.

From a failing, fading, school, it has taken over the running of a nearby primary (homed in the rather glum surroundings of the former Duncan Bowen building), introduced a sixth form, seen a host of new buildings, its most recent Ofsted rated it 'good'

Continues on page 20

across the board, and its value-added score between Key Stage 2 and 4 (from primary through to GCSEs) was rated the best non-grammar in the county. And the third best of all schools.

The Ofsted report, conducted in January 2014, was telling.

It described Mr McParland as an “inspirational principal” with an “ambitious vision” and of the school’s “determination no student is left behind”.

Crucially, it added “students behave well and they feel safe...they are proud of the academy”.

Peter Read, who runs the Kent Independent Education Advice service, believes the school has achieved beyond expectation - much of that thanks to its leadership.

The regular KoS columnist explains: “This is a school flourishing in an area that includes much deprivation, and where many would dismiss the school and its students as bound to fail because of the very high proportion of disadvantaged and SEN [special educational needs] pupils.

“Other schools with a similar intake do fail because of low expectations and poor leadership. The John Wallis show what can be done to overcome disadvantage.”

Just in case you’re wondering, its boost has not simply been down to pulling in students from the newer sprawling housing estates and ignoring Stanhope. Stanhope children still get priority - and its boosting that community which is still a key goal.

It may seem like a basic requirement for anyone of a certain age, but the lack of respect, behaviour and dis-



PAST: Linden Grove is sited within the old Duncan Bowen buildings

cipline in schools can be eye-opening - students swearing at teachers, fooling around in class. The list goes on.

“When we opened in 2010,” the principal explains, “I was excluding students every day for swearing at me.

“For the first six months, from 8.30am to noon every day, their parents would line-up to come in and raise an issue and I would have to explain our ethos.

“It was the bad language which upset me more than the defiance. So I excluded students for bad language. Parents would come in and say ‘well bad language is everywhere’ and I simply said it wasn’t and that we were not having it here.”

It was a zero tolerance policy which appears to have worked wonders.

Certainly, being shown around the school, there is no sense of chaos or unruliness. When the principal en-

ters a classroom the students all stand up. There is a mutual respect which does it proud.

But the new regime did not come about easily.

Much of the senior leadership team was replaced. Trying to attract teachers to a school with such a damaged reputation was no easy task, either. Despite repeated efforts to get the calibre required, the school was forced to look to Northern Ireland and Eire instead.

Mr McParland recruited those he needed, who bought into the mission, and jettied them back to Kent to help pull the school up by the proverbial bootstraps.

“I could help them with accommodation,” he explains, “look after them, and become something of a father figure to them in order to help them to settle in and work.

“Some of those young teachers

NOT ALL ACADEMIES ARE THE SAME...

THE fate of some of our academies has been a far cry from that witnessed at the John Wallis.

The Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate was the county’s first - mixing Tony Blair’s original concept of corporate and community partners to help drive up standards and achievement levels.

Replacing the failing Ramsgate School, it should have ticked all the right boxes; the backing of multi-billionaire Roger de Haan and Kent County Council, and delivered with a multi-million pound new building.

But despite some initial encouraging signs, the school struggled to deliver the necessary improvements.

Like the John Wallis, its catchment area included significant areas of deprivation, and transforming it was never going to be an easy task.

However, after repeatedly finding itself near the bottom of national league tables, the decision was taken for the school to merge with the neighbouring Elleson and Hereson School, and come under the umbrella of the academy which runs it.

have helped me turn key departments around.”

There’s more to this, of course, than simply getting the right people in.

In addition, the school has seen several million pounds worth of new buildings and also introduced a host of vocational courses - plumbing, electrical, construction, health and beauty - all designed to engage students for whom the education system was letting slip through its fingers.

Its history, however, remains there for all to see.

The Linden Grove Primary School continues to exist in the former Duncan Bowen buildings. Amid the splendour of the new-build on the opposite side of the site, they are in stark contrast; a throw-back to the classic schools of the 1970s and 80s.

It had originally resisted attempts to be incorporated into the academy set-up, but after falling into special

measures, it was engulfed to make the John Wallis now provide a three to 19 educational offering.

The plan is to sell off a slice of the school grounds to allow for these drab buildings - which now own the Stanhope Road address - to be pulled down and a new, modern, primary school to be built in its place.

The wranglings over the site have rumbled on and hopes of a 2015 opening has now been shifted back as far as 2018.

However, again, the staff at the school was given an overhaul and those there now demonstrate the same desire to succeed as their colleagues in the nicer buildings. The classrooms are colourful and bright, the children happy and well behaved.

The sense of turning a corner here is tangible.

“Don’t get me wrong,” explains the principal, “we still have some very

Made in Horton, Berkshire

Leather Holdall by Wombat Leather, £149.99

DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL
BRITISH PRODUCTS
FROM TOP QUALITY
BRANDS TODAY AT
greatbritishlife.co.uk



GREAT
BRITISH LIFE

Celebrating the very best of British



LEADER: John McParland

challenging students here and some parents, if they have any problem, they just go running straight to the newspapers."

One high profile recent case was when a student turned up with a haircut like reality TV star Joey Essex - long on top shaved at the back and sides. The school put him in isolation until it grew out as the hairstyle was not in keeping with the school rules.

The national newspapers had a field day. Mr McParland remains unrepentant. Many would agree with him.

Faith in his students to see the light of high aspirations and a broad base of respect, underpin his leadership. Faith underpins his life.

He was 17 when Manchester United came calling. Bob Bishop, the same scout that had discovered George Best, had been watching him play and was impressed. During the four



FRESH: The John Wallis Academy is the top value-added non-selective in Kent

games he'd attended, the budding player, who played down the wing, had netted twice and with both feet.

But when invited for a trial with the team he was forced to turn it down.

Determined to pursue a career as a Catholic priest, he turned down the chance of perhaps playing alongside the legendary Irishman.

"I just couldn't," he says, looking back, "I joined a missionary order, studied theology and philosophy and was about to be ordained but I felt I couldn't do that because of celibacy. I would have loved to have been a priest.

"I'm a practising Catholic but I'm at a Church of England school; we always start assemblies now with a moment of reflection and prayer.

"It is a great privilege to be head of a school like this and stand up and pray for the students, the exams, all of these things and students will ask me to pray for their grandparents for example.

"People couldn't believe I'd leave a Catholic school and join the Anglicans," he jokes of the John Wallis' Church of England status.

"We are a Christian community and I run this school and pray exactly as I did at a Catholic school. I don't

push my faith on people, but we have the freedom to pray."

With his family in teaching, though, the seed of a future career had already been sown.

He did not turn his back on sport, however.

At university his reputation as a Gaelic footballer only developed. A sport not unlike Australian Rules; tough, challenging.

He played at the very highest level, representing Down, a county side in Ireland, in the National League and played and managed at a top team in London. He was regularly on TV and a big name in Gaelic football circles.

"When I met my wife we were going out to dinner and she thought I was very famous and expected TV cameras there," he quips, "she was rather disappointed when there was nothing."

At one stage he was even recruited to play across the Atlantic in New York.

"I was in New York, being paid \$200 a game, and my friend took me to see a banker. He knew I had a degree and wanted to employ me. He said: 'I'd like to make you a millionaire in two years'. I like money and I liked that, but he was on his sixth gin and tonic at lunchtime and I just thought he was going to be dead in six years.

"He isn't," he jokes, "now he owns half of Long Island."

He returned, instead, to London and took up a career in teaching. His degree in philosophy and theology seeing him quickly move up the pecking order.

After moving to Kent to take up the post at the St Simon Stock Catholic School in Maidstone - where he spent nine years - his move to head up the new Ashford academy put him in a post, five years on, he describes as the best he's ever had.

Certainly, strolling through the corridors of the school alongside him, meeting pupils who have made great progress, put on performances, or simply now aspire to a career where once they would not, is testament to his achievements.

The Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate may have stumbled into a merger after its efforts proved fruitless, but the example of the John Wallis Academy could perhaps be the blueprint for all others to follow.

Change Lives... Find out about fostering.

Advertisement Feature



Fostering is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster carers means that more committed foster carers are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster carer think that the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward - who were foster carers themselves - and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent, London and The Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.

A national shortage of foster carers means that children who

cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding - and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.



Mary Cattell, an ex-carer herself and now Manager of the Chatham office, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly. We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, call into Next Step Fostering's Chatham office, at 85 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EE.

Alternatively you can call the Chatham office on 01634 838666 and speak to a member of their friendly team or visit their website at www.nextstepfostering.org

**Change your career,
change a life.
Call 01634 838666 or visit
www.nextstepfostering.org**



Remarkable discovery of plane - 70 years after it went missing

A TV documentary airs this week charting the remarkable tale of a RAF aircraft which crashed not long after take-off on a training flight from Canada. Lost for decades, it was recently found in a forest

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ON OCTOBER 30, 1942, a twin-engine aircraft, owned by the Royal Air Force, took off from a base in Patricia Bay, British Columbia.

The Canadian airstrip was a hub for Allied troops during the Second World War, an opportunity to get to grips with some of the technology and equipment of wartime craft in order to outwit the enemy.

It should have all been routine as the crew of four airmen took off for navigation training in the Avro Anson L7056.

But when airborne they flew into trouble. Wind and rain battered the aircraft and it disappeared.

The crew were assumed dead - lost as the craft crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Their bodies or the wreckage never found.

Their names, among them Pilot Officer Charles Fox, listed on the Ottawa Memorial.



However, in 2013, 71 years later, three forestry engineers discovered the wreckage of a plane in woodland in British Columbia.

Upon closer inspection, it was discovered to be the missing Avro Anson Mk1 plane with the remains of its crews still inside.

Now it forms part of a fascinating television documentary - 71 Years: The Loss and Discovery of Avro An-

son L7056 which is to be aired on Tuesday. It was down to an acclaimed producer and aviation historian to record the unfolding story over seven long months.

They travelled between Alberta and the UK to meet the families of the airmen and finally attending the interment ceremony outside Victoria.

A real horror of the crash was that it eventually emerged the plane went

down less than an hour's flight from its military base.

Since the crash site was discovered, the families have at last been given some closure.

Peter Fox (second left in picture), now 77, was not even at school when his father, trainee navigator Charles, disappeared. Although he was too young to remember his father, Mr Fox told us of his shock at discovering the truth at long last.

At his home in Hoo, near Rochester, he said: "I was only just three years old when, on April 9, 1941 Dad volunteered for the RAF."

"So any memories of him at that time are very vague being based mainly on photographs."

"Imagine my surprise when in July of 2014 I received a message from my brother Chris in Manchester to say that the Avro Anson aircraft that Dad had been flying in, in October 1942, had been found on a very wooded mountain side on Vancouver Island in Canada."

"My mother Marion died in 1998, long before it was found. I'm sure she would have been very shocked the

plane has been discovered.

"The plane had apparently gone down on an observer training flight with four airmen on board - three British and one Canadian. The relatives of all four men had been traced and contacted; we apparently were the last."

"The aircraft had been found by loggers surveying the forest. There was a second coincidence in that I, my wife Shirley, my two daughters and three of my grandchildren had, during the previous October, been to Ottawa in Canada to view the war memorial with Dad and his colleague's records."

"We were given laminated copies of Dad's war records and informed that there would be a joint burial in the Victoria (Royal Oak) Burial Park in Canada. It was stated that my brother and I were the first direct descendants of a casualty to be found - this is probably due to the fact that dad was 32 when he volunteered; the usual age was around 20 or 21."

"We were flown to Canada along with the senior RAF padre, four members of the Queen's Colour

GIRLINGS' MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE HELPDESK

Call us on **0845 2221 999**

or Text "compensation" to **88802**

For a **FREE**, no obligation chat about your claim for negligent medical treatment



www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk
KENT no win no fee specialists

Chalkwell DayBreaks by Coach



View from the Shard with Afternoon Tea
13th May 2015
£65.00



Creeks Cockles & Cockneys
15th May 2015
£55.00



Hatfield House & Gardens
27th May 2015
£41.00



Margate - Seaside Special
5th August 2015
£18.00

For more information call **01795 423982**
or visit www.chalkwell.co.uk
Quote 'ARC 138' when you book.





PLANE: The Avro Anson Mk1 - similar to that which the four airmen crashed in more than 70 years ago

Squadron and Sue Raftree, where we met up the family of the Canadian member of the crew and the loggers who found the aircraft remains. The burial service was very well done and very moving; Lewis, one of our grandchildren, laid a wreath on our behalf. "Probably the greatest impact of the discovery has been the impetus it

has given us to discover more about Dad and particularly his time in the RAF in Canada.

"As a family we have communicated more in the last six months than in the previous 50 years. I am also hoping to revisit Vancouver Island and get up to the crash site as we were unable to get up there last time due to

weather and scheduling problems.

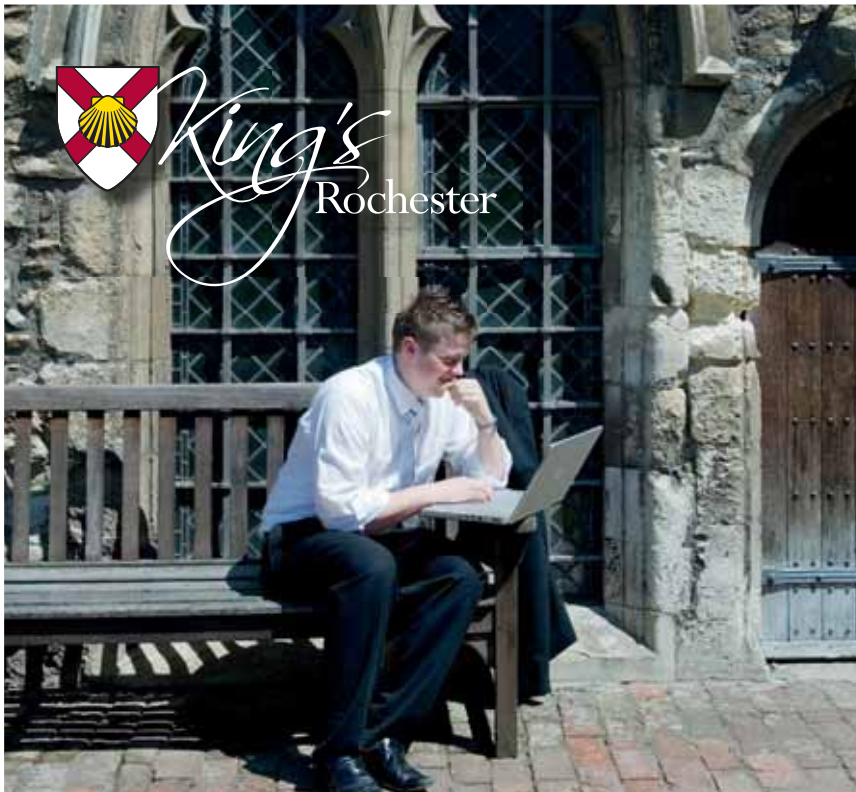
"The emotional side was very moving, especially during the service; the fact that the remains of four men were buried in one normal coffin took some getting used to.

"Since returning, for me, the main focus has been exchanging news and exploring how it must have been back

in the dark days of the war; especially trying to come up with ideas as to how and when the crash occurred was it soon after take-off or later in the flight? They were recalled due to the weather but did not respond. Was it purely due to the weather which according to a letter from one of Dad's colleagues was pretty much the worst

he had flown in? Was there equipment failure, human error or a combination of all the above? We will probably never fully know and that is one of the reasons why I want to return to the site."

The documentary will be aired on Forces TV, available via Sky and Virgin, on May 5 at 9pm.



Open Day

Saturday 9 May 2015
9.15am – 12 noon

First-rate ISI Inspection Report in 2013
Nursery and Pre Prep rated "outstanding"
Top academic results from a broad ability intake
Extensive Sports facilities • Boarding from 11
Wide range of scholarships available at 11/13/16
Cathedral Chorister scholarships available for boys aged 8



T: 01634 888590 E: admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk www.kings-rochester.co.uk

Are we winning killer bug battle?

After a host of cases of often fatal so-called 'superbugs' in our hospitals, it seems that finally we're turning the corner. But, as **David Powles** explains, the battle may be won, but the war is not over yet

HOSPITALS in Kent have been praised for efforts to successfully tackle superbugs on the wards - but warned any complacency from staff and patients will see the problems return.

The rise of so-called superbugs have dominated the health headlines for the past decade and been linked to hundreds of deaths across the United Kingdom and a number in Kent.

There was particular concern over the spread of two types of infections, commonly known as MRSA and C difficile, increasingly resistant to antibiotics and linked to poor hygiene.

However, our investigation has found that drastic measures have significantly reduced outbreaks.

We looked at hospital figures for the 18 months up to February 2015 for bloodstream infected *Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA), *Clostridium difficile* (C difficile) and, the past four years, for bloodstream infected *Escherichia coli* (E.coli).

While cases are still recorded, they occur on a much less regular basis than at the height of the problems. There has been particular success in reducing cases of bloodstream MRSA, the most serious.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals Trust has recorded five cases of MRSA in the time frame, but none since June last year.

In terms of C difficile, a potentially serious bacterial infection of the stomach, it consistently records around two to three cases a month.

East Kent Hospitals University, which in-



IMPROVING: Medway Maritime in Gillingham is one of a number of our hospitals which has seen a dramatic drop

cludes the William Harvey in Ashford and Kent and Canterbury hospitals, recorded eight MRSA cases, but also none since June 2014.

C difficile cases average around four or five a month, but fell to just seven in total for the four months between November 2014 and February 2015.

Sue Roberts, director, infection prevention and control for East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, told KoS the trust had

been working on a number of ways to lower the infection rate for C difficile.

She said: "Over the last six months we have greatly reduced our clostridium difficile [C.difficile] infection rate. We have introduced a new technology to 'fog' single rooms, bays and wards vacated by patients with resistant organisms. This technology acts as a high level disinfection agent to rid the environment of common bacteria and viruses that can cause

infection, particularly in susceptible individuals. We introduced an electronic software communication system to alert the infection prevention and control team to any in-patient suffering with diarrhoea enabling them to follow up in real time and further support the management of these patients. Finally, we introduced simplified assessment/action tools for staff to use in assessing patients with diarrhoea.

"We will continue to innovate new ideas to ensure that we provide the safest care for our patients, keeping infections like C difficile as low as possible."

She told KoS that, despite the innovation, hospitals were fighting a constant battle, and needed to stay vigilant.

Mrs Roberts said: "Hospitals face increasing pressure from the continued emergence of resistant organisms, worldwide, which cannot easily be eradicated from the hospital environment. We can combat infection through practicing effective hand hygiene between patients and after touching contaminated surfaces, keeping the environment clean including fogging, screening patients at risk on admission and ensuring we prescribe antibiotics appropriately."

At Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, which includes Darent Valley, Queen Mary's and Erith and District hospitals, the last MRSA case was more than a year ago and there has been just two in the last year and a half.

C difficile figures range from between one and three a month.

4 Ball Offer from £20pp

the RiDGE GOLF CLUB

Sunday Carvery 2 courses £13.00

Corporate membership £650

Flexi Membership

50 Rounds of Golf £395

100 Rounds of Golf £750

7day membership £57

Sunday Golf for 4 players Total £69

4 ball offer £20pp add breakfast £4 each

Individual Golf Lessons £12 each

Green fees from £6.25pp

Golf Societies from £27

Driving Range Balls from £3

THE COURSE

The star of the show is the superb 18 hole golf course, designed by Patrick Dawson. Join as a Member and enjoy, social golf, competitions, advance online booking, Ladies, Gentlemen's and Vets Sections, plus play 40 other courses free. Visitors are welcome to play at The Ridge 7 days a week; you can look forward to an excellent round on a great course, followed by some of our renowned catering in Brewsters.

Open to the Public 7 Days a week

All Day Menu, Breakfast, Light Bites, Main Meals and Desserts

Silver Roast on Fridays £5.95

Ridge Specials From only £3.95

Sunday Carvery 2 courses £13.00 3 courses £16.00

Fixed Price Functions

50 Guests Buffet £650

Weddings All Inclusive £2250

Large Patio overlooking the 18th Green

DINING

Brewster's Restaurant is open to the public 7 days a week, for Breakfast, Lunch and Bar Meals and Snacks. Booking is always advisable for our Sunday Lunch. Our team of chef's, design all the menus, preparing meals from fresh local produce which range from bar snacks to a four course dinner. Our bar hosts a range of favourite beers, lagers and an extensive wine list.

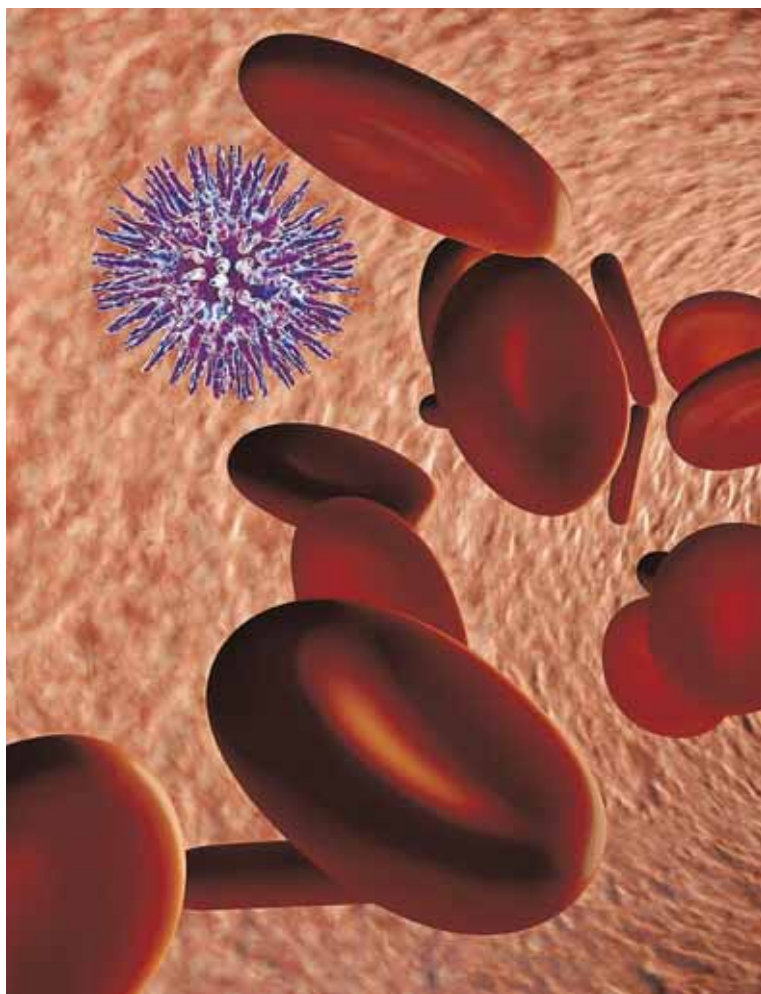
FUNCTIONS

Evening private dinners are fully inclusive, hire of Brewster's restaurant, Full Operating Bar, Dance Floor. Birthday parties, christenings, anniversaries, corporate lunches, or dinners, we cater for every occasion. Separate function rooms are available for Funerals. For more details or to book call free 0800 024 8730.

For more details or to book call free 0800 024 8730

The Ridge Golf Club, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, ME17 3JB

Tel: 01622 844382 www.theridgegolfclub.co.uk



VIRUS: Many of the dangerous germs are linked to poor hygiene

Meanwhile, at Medway NHS Trust, whose main service is the beleaguered Medway Maritime Hospital, there have been just two MRSA cases, with only one or two *C difficile* cases per month.

Dr Rella Workman, consultant microbiologist and director of infection prevention and control, told KoS the battle against superbugs had been hard fought, with the reduction a result of a number of initiatives which had been put in place.

Dr Workman said: "We have achieved this through a series of measures, including screening, identification and isolating patients with superbugs, infection control measures to manage those patients identified to be positive and infection control policies and procedures aimed at reducing spread.

"A committed infection control team are also visible on the ward and are able to support staff to follow infection control policies and protocols."

Derek Butler, chair of MRSA Action UK, said: "There has been much improvement but it is a bit disingenuous. Hospitals only have to record MRSA infections that get into the bloodstream. They are often the most serious and can kill, but other MRSA infections, known as surgical site infections, are not included. The concern we have is that is hospitals don't have to record it, you can't control it and it might not be a priority.

"We are campaigning to get these infections included."

The reductions come after a wide-spread national campaign to tackle superbugs on the wards through methods such as screening of patients as they arrive, improved hygiene measures and steps to make the public more aware of the need to stay clean to prevent infection.

Ursula Clarke, assistant chief nurse for

Medway NHS Trust, told KoS the trust had put all these measures in place, and was working on new systems to help in the future.

She said: "We have used side rooms when appropriate. When risks, near misses or increases in acquisitions occur, for example MRSA, restrictions are placed on the number of MRSA patients that can be nursed in the middle of a bay within the medical block wards. We have undertaken enhanced cleaning, staff re-training in hygiene competence and increased audit.

"Continual audits and new ways of working will help in the future.

"The antibiotic management team were successful in their bid for 'Microguide' - an application for antibiotic guidelines on smartphones - so in addition to being available on the intranet, it will be delivered to all clinicians via their smart phones."

Our investigations have found, however, that recorded cases of *E.coli* are on the rise in hospitals. *E.coli* usually originates from food, but spreads very easily and can cause urinary, kidney and bloodstream infections. It is thought new strains are becoming resistant to antibiotics and therefore spreading.

Hospital bosses claim an increasing number of people are infected with *E.coli* in the community and bringing it in with them.

At Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, figures for the past three years show an increase in *E.coli* bacteraemia cases, when it gets into the blood, with 214 in 2012, 256 in 2013 and 266 last year.

East Kent recorded 434 in 2012, 478 in 2013 and 478 last year. Dartford and Gravesham rose from 170 in 2012, 191 in 2013 and 186 last year.

Medway also rose with 203 in 2012, 221 in 2013 and 270 last year.

Continued on page 27

HOLIDAY HOMES & LODGES FOR SALE

New Romney, Kent

New Lodge Development

**WARREN
CRESCENT**

Holiday
Home Show
this Bank Holiday
weekend.

**LONG SEASON
11 MONTHS
FOR OWNERS**

**Reserve
today!**

Computer generated image of the new lodge development. Homes shown with optional wrap around decking.

Discover the very best of holiday home and luxury lodge ownership at Marlie Holiday Park. You'll feel at home from the moment you arrive at this small and friendly park in the heart of the Kent countryside and just a short drive from some of the regions finest beaches.

As an owner, you can come and go as you please and stay whenever you choose all season long. Stay in a safe and secure, park community with a host of amenities right on your doorstep.

Features of Marlie

- New indoor pool
- Family bar with Sky TV
- Superb entertainment venue
- Great food available from the family bar
- Play area • Amusement centre
- Kids' Club for 5-14 year olds
- Free Wi-Fi internet access in club area
- Wi-Fi also available in your holiday home for a small additional charge



**Holiday
Homes
from only
£9,995**

**Luxury
Lodges
from only
£120,000**



- Great Location
- Great Homes
- Great New Lifestyle
- Open 11 months a year



Check out our website www.ParkHolidays.com/marliesales

Call to let us know you're coming on

01797 330 406

and join us this weekend at Dymchurch Road,
New Romney, Kent, TN28 8UE





Pilgrims Retreat

*A beautiful and
tranquil place to live*

*Are you feeling like it's time for a break?
Do you feel like it's time to get away from
the busy hustle of your current lifestyle
and embark on a new start somewhere
quiet and peaceful?*

Well here at Pilgrims Retreat we can offer both Residential and Leisure Homes for the over 50's and cater for those who want a consistently peaceful lifestyle or simply a break from the norm every once in a while.

You can relax and swim in our Indoor Heated Pool, work out in our Community Gymnasium or meet your neighbours in our Club House and Coffee Shop; all open 365 days a year!

**WE OFFER PART EXCHANGE
NO SOLICITORS FEES
NO STAMP DUTY &
NO ESTATE AGENT FEES**

The possibilities are endless.

**Show homes open daily,
no appointment required**



Tel: 01622 859 648 • www.pilgrimsretreat.com • email: info@pilgrimsretreat.com

Continued from page 25

Mr Butler added: "There is still a problem with other infections. Cases of C difficile and E.coli are still prevalent and we are concerned they are the MRSA of the future if hospitals do not act."

"We don't want people to take their eye off the ball. A lot of medical staff feel they are on top of it and that is often when it can come back to bite you. We are also seeing more cases of infections in the community at places like care homes."

"The government needs to find ways to encourage drug compa-

nies to test and develop antibiotics to tackle the emerging infections."

Dr Workman said that whatever is done, superbugs will likely be a problem for many years to come. She said: "The nightingale style wards, bed pressures, the changing workforce, high agency staff use, staff rotas and staff retention all make implementation of infection control policies and procedures a continuous challenge."

"The changing nature of superbugs and their inherent ability to evolve makes total eradication an unlikely event."

THE BUGS

Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

Between 20pc and 40pc of people carry the MRSA bacteria, mostly in the nose or on the skin. MRSA can cause significant infections in deep wounds or if it gets into the bloodstream.

Clostridium difficile (C difficile)

Many of us, particularly women and young children, carry the bacteria harmlessly in our stomachs, but it can become a problem when disrupted by antibiotics, which can kill off other bacteria allowing C difficile

to thrive. It produces spores which can travel through the air.

Escherichia coli (E.coli)

Although most strains are harmless, some strains of E. coli are capable of producing powerful toxins that can cause severe illness, especially when it gets in the bloodstream (known as bacteraemia).

The majority of E.coli cases are food-borne though it is believed new and stronger strains are evolving. It can spread very easily and good hygiene is essential to stop it from doing so.

Steps to healthy hygiene in hospitals

PATIENT

- 1 If you are staying in a hospital, make sure you **clean your hands** after going to the toilet, before and after eating, and at regular intervals.
- 2 If you are concerned about the hand hygiene of doctors, nurses or anyone else you come into contact with in hospital, you are encouraged to **ask them whether they have cleaned their hands**.
- 3 Help prevent the spread of infections by **keeping the space around you tidy** and uncluttered so that cleaning staff can access all the surfaces easily.
- 4 **Do not touch** any wound or device that enters your body.
- 5 **Shower** as frequently as you can, and **change** into clean clothes **regularly**.
- 6 **Do not share** personal items or equipment with other patients.



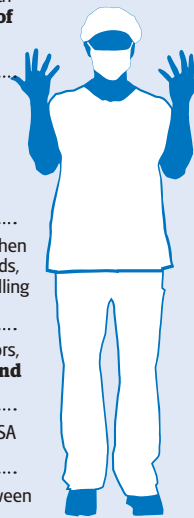
VISITORS

- 1 When visiting someone in hospital, always **clean your hands** using soap and water or alcohol hand rubs. Do this when you **enter or leave** a patient's room or other areas of the hospital.
- 2 If you have a cough, cold, diarrhoea, vomiting or any other infectious condition, **contact the ward for advice before visiting**.



STAFF

- 1 Hospital staff who come into contact with patients should maintain **high standards of hygiene** and take extra care when treating patients with MRSA.
- 2 Staff should **thoroughly wash and dry their hands** before and after caring for a patient, before and after touching any potentially contaminated equipment or dressings, after bed making and before handling food.
- 3 **Disposable gloves** should be worn when staff have physical contact with open wounds, for example when changing dressings, handling needles or inserting an intravenous drip.
- 4 The hospital environment, including floors, toilets and beds, should be kept as **clean and dry** as possible.
- 5 Patients with a known or suspected MRSA infection should be **isolated**.
- 6 Patients should only be transferred between wards when this is **strictly necessary**.



Source: NHS Choices



SCANS
FROM
£45



**10% OFF
FIRST SCAN
APPOINTMENT**
(Until May 31st 2015)

WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF OBSTETRIC
AND NON-OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND SERVICES
FROM ABDOMEN AND GYNAECOLOGICAL TO SCANS
FOR EVERY STAGE OF PREGNANCY INCLUDING 3/4D

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CALL:

01795 436465

H.E.M CLINICAL ULTRASOUND
UNIT 5 CONQUEROR COURT
WATERMARK, VELLUM DRIVE
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME10 5BH
EMAIL: INFO@HEM-ULTRASOUND.COM
WEB : WWW.HEM-ULTRASOUND.COM

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.HEM-ULTRASOUND.COM



RIP: Pat Lamb died after falling into the Medway river after a night out

Father's emotional warning of binge drinking dangers

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

THE parents of Pat Lamb, found dead in the River Medway after going missing after a night out with friends, have warned of the dangers of "suicidal" levels of drinking.

The 28-year-old from Greenhithe, sparked a major search after drinking in Maidstone town centre on December 13 last year.

He was last seen walking, apparently extremely drunk, towards the path which runs along the river in the county town.

His body was eventually found, on January 10, at Cuxton Marina.

At an inquest this week, it was revealed he had been drinking for six hours prior to his death. He had consumed around a third of a bottle of port, plus bottles of WKD blue, cider and six Jager bombs before he went missing.

A toxicology report revealed that

his blood alcohol level was high enough to make him pass out.

At the inquest into his death, held in Maidstone, the coroner, Patricia Harding, recorded an open verdict.

Although there has been no evidence of foul play, the coroner could not determine how he got into the river. The cause of death was immersion – either by drowning or having a cardiac arrest when in the water.

Speaking after the hearing, his father Tony Lamb said: "People do go out and drink for all sorts of reasons and these days young people tend to get involved in what is really quite suicidal drinking."

"They have no real idea of what they are doing to their bodies and that is a problem."

His son had been out with two friends to mourn the loss of close friend Rob Butler on the night of the tragedy. The coroner said: "This is a very sad loss of life. It's quite clear from the evidence I have heard that Patrick was very well thought of and had very many friends."

"It's a very tragic loss in those circumstances and I am very sorry that the inquest hasn't been able to piece together exactly what happened to Patrick."

A driver next to the A229 at Fairmeadow and a man walking towards the nearby Travel Lodge hotel had both seen a man matching Mr Lamb's description and made reports to the police.

The driver said the man had appeared very drunk, and that he had crossed in front of his car and made his way down the stairs to the footpath.

He said that he would have stopped to check he was all right but could not do this safely.

The man walking back from a nightclub towards the Travelodge said he had seen someone "shouting and waving his arms around in a windmill type action" and behaving "erratically" on the footpath by the river.

Mr Lamb's parents and brother Jamie attended the inquest.

His mother, Sharon Lamb, said: "He was always smiling. I'm really going to miss that smile."

No Chimney? No Problem...

Specialists in stoves and fires - wood and multifuel

Brands:

- Hunter • Avalon • Cleanburn • Arada • Villager
- Firestorm • Romotop • Termatech • Firebelly



- Supply and installation of all types of flue systems
- Pre-pack fuel and accessories
- Chimney's rebuilt and repointed
- NACS registered chimney sweep
- Hetas registered installer



Free ton of wood and 25kg of smokeless coal on all installations
*terms and conditions apply.

MEDWAY STOVES & FIRES LTD

☎ 01634 855098

43 SKINNER STREET GILLINGHAM KENT ME7 1LG

www.medwaystovesandfires.com

Free ton of wood and 25kg of smokeless coal on all installations
*terms and conditions apply.



*for full terms and conditions please contact us.



"Beautiful Gardens Set in Stone"



OFFER
Natural Indian Stone
£16.25 +vat
per square metre

50mm
Driveway
Pavers **£100**
per pack inc. VAT.
All Colours.

20% off
OUR
patio packs

*The Largest Indoor
Showroom in Kent!*

Buy Direct from the manufacturer

Most of our centres have beautiful landscaped gardens designed to inspire you. Stonecraft Paving can offer you everything you need to create your ideal patio or driveway. We offer quality products with huge savings. Visit our centres and compare our prices with other leading outlets.

Medway City Estate, Whitewall Road, Strood, Kent ME2 4EW

Tel: **01634 724667** Fax: **01634 729907** www.stonecraftpaving.co.uk



LOST: Cats and owners are united courtesy of the Cat Chat website which puts animals currently in shelters online to find their perfect match

Thousands of cats are put within a whisker of new life on website

Charity site just for cats is equivalent of feline online dating service as **Mario Chiorando** finds out...

TAKE a quick look at Facebook at any given moment, and you would think that cats are the world's most loved and most revered of all creatures.

Often it seems they replace children in many people's affections.

Yet despite the outpouring of love, many cats struggle to find a loving home, too often the result of unwanted or unexpected litters.

All of which helped inspire the setting up of Cat Chat – an online charity set up in Ramsgate and now serving much of the UK.

Its aim is simple – to unite stray cats with a new owner.

As an online portal it acts as a kind of virtual matchmaker – putting cats in touch with humans wanting to welcome them into the home.

Its motto is 'helping cats out of shelters... and into homes'.

The charity was founded by Mandy Cotton in 2000.

"We are unique in what we do," she explains. "We are a virtual shelter – we don't physically take cats in, we are a resource, listing cats that are looking for new homes from shelters all over. We are expanding all the time, and will host any animal charity providing they neuter animals, and run a home check service before rehoming."

"Lots of the shelters we list on the site don't have their own websites, although some do. We list so many cats – we helped to rehome about 8,000 in 2014."

"We were one of the very first online charities to be registered in the country."

Re-homing abandoned and stray cats is just one side of the equation – a single cat can be responsible for up to 20,000 descendants in just five years

if left unneutered – and many pet owners are failing to do just that.

Most charities recommend neutering pets, preventing their ability to reproduce.

Katya Mira, south east spokeswoman from the RSPCA, said: "Recent research carried revealed that 85 per cent of litters are a mistake. This is mainly because people don't realise that cats can get pregnant from as young as four months, while they are still kittens themselves."

"Allowing your cat to be spayed or snipped also saves your cat from health risks. Females are susceptible to disease from mating, and Tom cats who haven't been snipped are more likely to wander off and get into fights which can lead to them getting FIV and other diseases."

FIV, or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, is often considered the cat equivalent of HIV. Passed through scratching or biting, it can be fatal in cats, and remain dormant for years.

A vaccine is available but it does not offer a reliable form of protection for all cats. Thus prevention is the best cure – normally by preventing your cat getting into fights.

The RSPCA spokeswoman added "There is a romanticised myth that cats should be allowed to have at least one litter of kittens, but cats aren't like people and don't choose to get pregnant like we do."

"Our research showed pet owners found the reality of having these kittens is not what they imagined and the overwhelming response at that point from cat owners was 'never again'."

Among the patrons of Cat Chat is Suzy Gale, wife of Sir Roger Gale, the long-serving MP who is standing as the Conservative candidate in the upcoming general election for Thanet

North.

She is currently working with the group to promote the cause of older cats, who are often ignored in favour of their younger counterparts when it comes to rehoming.

"Every poor little kitten and cat deserves a chance."

She adds: "There are so many desperately sad stories – some cats end up homeless because their elderly owners die."

"We have one cat here who my son brought from Hounslow. Someone moved out of their house, and just left the cat behind. The neighbours had been feeding her, but she was very timid. Eventually my son managed to catch her, and we took her in."

Many people are put off by the cost of neutering, but Mrs Gale says: "It is not necessarily expensive, as sometimes charities will offer the service for free, or local vets will offer very reasonable rates."

"The Blue Cross in Cliftonville will generally try to help. Many charities are trying hard, but this is an annual problem, which isn't helped by the animals people abandon or dump because of cost or other reasons."

"What many don't realise is that cats are for life – like dogs, you should be ready to take on that responsibility."

Many people do not realise there is a kitten season – and it is a long one.

It can start in March, depending on the weather, and lasts into the autumn. With cats having large litters of around five or six kittens, sanctuaries can quickly become overwhelmed by the sheer number of baby animals.

During this time, while many people choose to adopt kittens, many older or more timid cats get overlooked, but in fact there are advantages to adopting an older cat.



HOME: Suzy Gale and a number of her feline friends

Sharon Weller is a rehoming and welfare assistant working with cats at Battersea in Brands Hatch – part of the famous Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

She says: "We always recommend that people come here with as open a mind as possible, and if you do have a specific type of cat in mind, it might be better choosing an adult."

"This is because cats' characters don't develop until they are about four-years-old. If you know you want a lap cat, and you get a young kitten who is very friendly, there is a chance you could end up with a totally different type of cat once he or she has grown up."

"What we really try and do is make sure that a cat is suitable for a prospective owner's lifestyle and expectations."

The Gales share their home with a number of dogs, and with five cats.

The cats are all rescue animals.

"People often misunderstand cats," Mrs Gale says. "They really are the most wonderful creatures, and it's very rewarding to take on older animals. People sometimes think they are aloof and independent, but they are usually very friendly and loving."

"I do understand that people want a young cat, or kitten, but it really is worth giving an older cat a home too."

Ms Cotton says having the MP and his wife as patrons of the charity has been immensely helpful.

"They have a great network of people and contacts, so if you have a question they can't answer, they will generally know someone who can."

"I also think having patrons like the Gales adds credibility – they wouldn't be supporting us unless we were a good cause."

See www.catchat.org.



FANTASY: The park will be the size of Disneyland Paris and feature sections such as Port Bay



FLOATING: Port Plaza appears to show a floating boat

Theme park offers fresh glimpse into the future

It is one of the most exciting proposals ever for the county – an enormous tourist attraction creating thousands of jobs and pulling in millions. **Maria Chiorando** examines the latest developments...

DEVELOPERS of the multi-billion pound London Paramount Resort have released a string of striking new images of the attraction as it embarks on the latest stage of an extensive consultation process.

It is hoped the park, which, if all goes to plan will open by 2020, will be sited on a former cement works on the Swanscombe peninsula - midway between Gravesend and Dartford.

London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) is hoping to create a complex which is part theme park, part entertainment venue, part commercial and part destination.

It will cost around £2bn to complete and, if all goes to plan, create some 27,000 new jobs.

It is predicted to become one of northern Europe's biggest tourist attractions.

The latest artist impressions show the resort will contain a number of themed zones, with a host of rides and attractions.

They were released to coincide with the start, on Wednesday, of a string of 10 consultation events taking place

across Dartford and Gravesham. They conclude on May 14.

The consultations will outline transport link opportunities, which include harnessing the Thames and exploiting the potential of the Ebbsfleet International high-speed rail link.

Those attending the events will also see a 3D model of the park.

It has signed a licensing deal with movie studio Paramount to use a host of its trademarks – among them the right to film branding like Star Trek, Mission: Impossible and Titanic.

Additional deals have been signed with the likes of the BBC to ensure a heavy dose of British characters too.

A spokesman said: "Late afternoon every day the Paramount and Friends Carnival is planned to take place. Also in the evening, there will be a chance to enjoy a West End quality production at one of our theatres, indoor or outdoor venues.

"The heart of the Entertainment Resort will open to the public in Easter 2020, with additional rides and attractions scheduled to be unveiled soon after in the following years."



LEGENDS: If all goes to plan, the park will open in just five years time



WATER: Rides are featured in this striking image

Killer dog disease warning after spate of incidents across the UK

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VETS are urging dog owners in the county not to panic after 52 pets have died from the a rare condition.

In all, there have been 103 suspected case of CRGV – known as Alabama Rot – but only the 52 have so far been confirmed.

They are spread across wide parts of the UK, but none have been in Kent so far. The cause of the illness, which can cause kidney failure and skin lesions, remains a mystery.

Ian Johnson runs the Sandhole Veterinary Centre in Snodland, near Rochester.

He told us: "Owners still need to be on the lookout for anything suspicious with their pets and if they are at all concerned, take them to your vet.

"Little is known about this disease, but it does need to be a concern.

"It can start as a relatively innocuous skin condition and turns rapidly into a fatal kidney disease.

"The fact we don't know a lot about it is a little more worrying. Early treatment can give better hope for a full recovery."

Michelle Bevan, rehoming and welfare manager at Battersea Brands Hatch, said: "While instances of Alabama Rot are still relatively low, the best advice we can offer dog owners is to practice vigilance: if your dog develops sore looking lesions on its legs, feet or face, then do take it to the vet immediately."

It had been unknown in the UK until 2012 but was known to have affected dogs in the US since the 1980s. Cases have subsequently been reported in the New Forest, Cornwall, Dorset, Surrey, Worcestershire and County Durham.

John Foster, a vet who runs the Amber House Partnership in Canterbury, told us: "If owners allow their dogs to run free in woodland, they need to check them very thoroughly at the end of every walk.

"They need to check their pads, legs and underside to see if there is any damage. If they are a bit muddy they need to be cleaned and then, very importantly, dried thoroughly.

“It can start as a relatively innocuous skin condition and turns rapidly into a fatal kidney disease. The fact we don't know a lot about it is a little more worrying.”

Ian Johnson,
Sandhole Veterinary Centre

"We do not yet know the cause of this condition, but owners need to take all the steps they can to prevent it.

"If they do see lesions and are worried, they should take their pet to a vet as a matter of urgency."

After the first cases were reported in the New Forest, it sparked concerns there had been an environmental trigger.

The Forestry Commission says it is aware of the possible link, but stressed there had been no proof of any link.

A spokesman said: "Although reports come from people who have walked

their dog in the countryside, the cause of the disease remains unknown.

"Many thousands of dogs are walked in the countryside every day and it is important to remember that only a very small number of dogs have been affected.

"Most skin lesions will not be

caused by this disease and most cases of kidney failure will have another cause.

"Because the cause remains unknown we do not want to give the impression that some areas are safer than others indeed there may not be an environmental trigger."



THREAT: Dog walkers urged to be on the look out

**6 DAY COACH BREAK
TO SCOTLAND - £249**

TUESDAY 12TH MAY

Loch Long Hotel Loch Lomond National Park
STB ★★ ★

**SCENIC
SCOTLAND**

A 6 day coach break staying at our Loch Long Hotel. There will be an excursion everyday including Dunoon, Tighnabruaich, Oban, Edinburgh, Fort William, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor, Inveraray & a cruise on Loch Lomond.



**LOCHS
& GLENS
HOLIDAYS**

TOUR INCLUDES:

- 5 Nights Half Board
- Nightly entertainment
- Excursions

PICKUP FROM:

Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Birchington, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury, Birchanger Services

Holidays are fully bonded,
School Road, Gartocharrn,
G83 8RW

www.LOCHS.COM 01389 713713

NetworkRail

**Travelling
over May
bank holiday?**

**Major improvement work
between 2-4 and 23-25 May
will affect journeys across
Kent and to and from London.**

**Please check before you travel at:
nationalrail.co.uk/may
@nationalrailenq**



VISIT
www.bybrook-barn.co.uk



Bybrook

1,000'S OF PLANTS TO BE

PLANT YOUR BEDDING NOW



SUMMER BEDDING
£3.49 PER PACK OR
5 PACKS
ONLY £15

COFFEE SHOP



Buy one Breakfast and get
one FREE only £6.99
Available until
11.30am
daily

PETS AND AQUATICS



COLD WATER
FISH NOW IN
STOCK



VISIT www.bybrook-barn.co.uk

Open daily Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm
Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9JZ (M20 Junction)

ook Barn

YOUR INDEPENDENT
GARDEN CENTRE
ASHFORD KENT TN24 9JZ

RIGHTEN YOUR GARDEN



FURNITURE CLEARANCE



10,000 SQ FT OF CLEARANCE
INTERIOR & GARDEN
FURNITURE

BBQ CLEARANCE



MASSIVE
REDUCTIONS

PLANT YOUR BEDDING NOW



SUMMER BEDDING
£3.49 PER PACK OR
5 PACKS
ONLY £15

rook-barn.co.uk



9, A28) | Tel: 01233 631959 | www.bybrook-barn.co.uk

BLUNDELLS FURNITURE

EST 1947

Spring Event

Free Delivery

Free Installation

+Free Disposal of your Old Furniture

**WE STOCK ALL MAJOR FURNITURE BRANDS
RIGHT IN THE HEART OF YOUR HIGH STREET**

TEL 01795 423933

33-37 HIGH STREET SITTINGBOURNE KENT ME10 4AP

www.blundells-furniture.co.uk



Tributes to former borough and county leader Frank Gibson

By Molly Kersey

Molly.Kersey@archant.co.uk

DESCRIBED as 'one of life's true gentlemen', family and friends have paid tribute to the former chairman of Kent County Council.

Frank Gibson was in his eighties when he passed away last week.

He was elected to the council in 1985 and took up the role of chairman in 2004.

He was honoured as both alderman and freeman of the borough and was awarded an OBE for his services to Kent County Council in 1994.

Mr Gibson was also mayor and council leader of Gravesham Borough Council during his life.

Taking great pride in Gravesham and the people who live there, he played a significant role in local politics and town improvements throughout his extensive career.

He was devoted to his family and is survived by his seven children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

His son, Richard Gibson, said: "He was an energetic sort of a man.

"He was 89 when he died and that morning he had been digging in the garden and throwing his little grandson up in the air.

"He was known as a very spirited sort of a man.

"He was well known about town and he was very sociable."

Speaking about his father's death, Mr Gibson explained: "It was a cough that just got worse and worse.

"It was very sudden. He got an infection and it turned into pneumonia and it just took him over, but it was very quick and peaceful, everyone was there with him."

He said that local government had been his father's main passion during his life.

Mr Gibson worked hard to establish Gravesham Borough Council in 1972, and after being the leader of the council for several years he served as the mayor of Gravesham twice.

"He was very much a Conservative councillor," his son explained.

"He was on the council for years but was very friendly with people on both sides and he was a big personality, there's no two ways about that.

"He was a very dedicated person and got things done."

Mr Gibson played a large role in the establishment of the St George's shopping centre in Gravesham and the North West Kent Enterprise Zone.

He was passionate about the areas of Cobham and Luddesdowne, hav-



POPULAR: Frank Gibson had been committed to local government

ing lived there for many years.

He played a leading part in protecting Luddesdowne from proposed military use and fought successfully to have the 14th century Cobham College converted into retirement homes.

"He had a big role in extending it," his son explained.

As well as his service to the community through public sector work,

Mr Gibson was also a trustee at local charities including the Elizabeth Higgins Cottages Charity Trust - which helps to home ex-servicemen and their families.

His enthusiasm for education led to him becoming chairman of governors at Gravesham Grammar School for Boys, the school that he attended as a child, and a governor of Ilfield School - which works with students

with special needs.

Although Mr Gibson's impressive career saw him travel abroad, his heart remained in Gravesham and he always returned.

"We grew up in Africa. He was in the Foreign Office, and it was known as colonial service at the time," his son explained.

"He was posted to Uganda and became a district commissioner. He was there until he came back to Gravesham."

He remained passionate about local issues until the end, and had been working to establish a museum detailing the town's rich history shortly before his death.

Chief executive of Gravesham Borough Council David Hughes said: "Frank made an enormous contribution to the work of the borough council and Kent County Council over many years and was most certainly one of life's true gentlemen.

"It is most fitting that in being made an honorary freeman of the borough he was awarded the greatest honour the borough council can bestow.

"He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered for many years to come.

"All our thoughts will be with his family and close friends at this sad time."



**FIAT PANDA LOUNGE with Customer Saving of £1000
PLUS Fiat Deposit Contribution of £1000 with Fiat iDeal Finance**

Representative Finance Example

FIAT PANDA 1.2 LOUNGE with FIAT i-Deal Finance			
On the road price from	£9675	Opt Fin Payment (inc £10 fee)	£2595
Deposit contribution	£1000	Total amount payable by cust	£9267
Customer deposit	£139	Rate of interest fixed	2.63%
Amount of credit	£8536	Representative APR	2.70%
47 monthly payments	£139	Annual mileage 6000. Excess miles charge £p per mile. Duration of contract 48 months.	

J G Burgess & Company

Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB Tel 01795 423815

Opening times: 0800 - 1800 Mon-Fri, 8.30 - 1600 Sat. closed sun & public holidays

Terms and conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offer may be varied at any time. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment subject to the vehicle being in good condition & not exceeding an agreed annual mileage (6000 in the above example). Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide credit to our customers including FGA Capital. Offer valid for registrations by 30/06/2015

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

NTW

Auction Sale

19th May 2015

By order of LPA receivers

A selection of investment and vacant properties to include:

- Flats A & B, 1 Darnley Street, Gravesham, DA11 0PJ
- Flat 20, 20 Sea Street, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8SP
- 2b Darnley Street, Gravesham, DA11 0PJ
- Flats 3 and 4a, 32 Overcliffe, Gravesham, DA11 0EH
- Flat 4 Hazeldene House, 91 Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5JJ
- 5 Spencer Street, Gravesham, DA11 0PT
- 10 St Johns Road, Gravesham, DA12 2SB
- 12 Arthur Street, Gravesham, DA11 0PP
- Flats B & C, 17 Harmer Street, Gravesham, DA12 2AP
- 25b Cobham Street, Gravesham, DA11 0SB
- 28 Cobham Street, Gravesham, DA11 0SB
- 28 The Cloisters, Orchard Street, Dartford, DA1 2DF
- Flat 4, 29 Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6DA
- 32 Crawley Court, West Street, Gravesham, DA11 0BE

**For further details please call 0208 741 8088
or visit www.barnardmarcusauctions.co.uk**

Revealed: Truth about Lusitania

When the Lusitania liner was torpedoed with the loss of more than 1,200 passenger lives in 1915, it would become a defining moment. But, as **Chris Murphy** reports, a Kent author duo believe they have finally discovered the truth...

IT WAS a First World War tragedy that shook the world, and made the name Lusitania a byword for atrocity. Once the world's largest passenger liner, the Cunard vessel had set off from Liverpool to New York, with more than 1,200 passengers when it was sunk after being torpedoed by a German U-boat. Now a book on the loss of the liner has been refreshed to mark the centenary of the sinking and questions why passengers were still being transported on a ship apparently carrying ammunition for the war effort, something that has always been denied by the authorities.

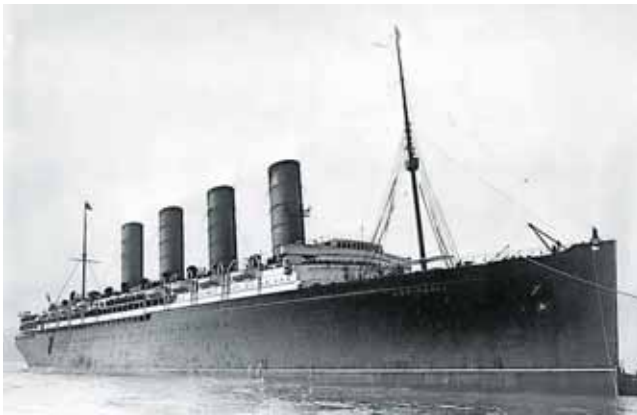
Rochester driving instructor Mitch Peeke along with Dartford taxi driver Steve Jones were moved by the incident so much, they combined to write *The Lusitania Story: The Atrocity That Shocked The World*. Mr Peeke said they now have proof munitions were on board and were a primary reason for the rapid 18-minute sinking. He told us: "This is an updated edition of my original 2002 published book. "This version not only tells the complete story of this most famous liner, it also closely examines why she was lost in a mere 18 minutes after being hit by just a single torpedo from

a German U Boat, with the loss of 1,202 lives, on May 7 1915. "It also examines why the British authorities were so keen to blame the liner's master, Captain Turner, for the disaster, when it was clearly an act of war. "Prior to the First World War, the Lusitania and her sister ship, Mauretania, were the fastest passenger ships on the North Atlantic. "But these two sisters had a secret. They'd been built with government money and a condition of that was that in time of war, they would be requisitioned for use as armed merchant cruisers. Ultimately, they didn't have the range for such usage, but Lusitania, in common with other British ships, was given a very important job to do. "By the beginning of 1915, it had become obvious that the war wasn't going to be over by any foreseeable Christmas. It was also obvious that the British Army in France was firing more shells per month than Britain's armaments factories were making. Britain needed munitions urgently and turned to America. "The only way to get these US made munitions to Britain was across the Atlantic. A regular cargo ship took 10 days to make the crossing and was highly likely to be targeted by the U-Boats. The two Cunarders took half that time and outwardly were passenger ships. Henceforth, they and many other liners such as those of the White Star Line, were used to transport munitions, as well as passengers. All had been going well, till May 7, 1915. "Now 13 years after my first book, many other things have come to light about this most controversial disaster. The British authorities have steadfastly denied she was carrying munitions. Her original cargo manifest had been locked away, safe from prying eyes, ever since the ship sank. "In December 2012, after 15 years of detective work, I finally tracked it down. It had been in President Roosevelt's personal archive since January 1940. After some final transatlantic negotiations, I obtained a



SHOCK: How news broke of the tragedy in the US

certified copy and the necessary permissions to make this particular historical Holy Grail publicly available. "The torpedo had hit the forward cargo hold, right where the 1,248 crates of shells, four shells per crate, had been stacked and the mighty Lusitania's fate was sealed. Mr Peeke is closely involved with the Lusitania Historical Society and Mr Jones is a member of the society. *The Lusitania Story: The Atrocity That Shocked The World Updated Centenary Edition* by Mitch Peeke, Steve Jones, and Kevin Walsh-Johnson is £12.99 ISBN: 978147382701.



SUNK: The RMS Lusitania

THE WRECK

THE remains of the Lusitania lie just off the coast of Ireland. It is one Mr Peeke has close connections to. He explains: "We have enjoyed the full and continued support of an American businessman, Gregg Bemis, who actually owns the wreck of the liner. "Gregg is also a technical diver and has spent years and a small fortune, surveying the wreck. "In 2008, Gregg's explorations uncovered some of the three million rifle bullets in her cargo hold. With his finds and our certified manifest, we can now prove she was carrying munitions. "But the bullets were just the tip of the iceberg. She was also carrying 5,000 live artillery shells in her forward hold. "Unfortunately for those aboard the ship that fateful day, a combination of ill-luck and a miscalculation on the part of U20's captain, the one torpedo he fired hit the liner in the only place the underwater missile could render fatal damage to such a well found ship."

EMERGENCY APPEAL NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

We urgently need your help to provide clean water, sanitation and emergency food support.

CALL 0300 200 1999
CLICK www.oxfam.org.uk/nepal
TEXT NEPAL5 to 70066 to give £5*

*Texts cost £5 plus your usual network rate. By texting you consent to future telephone contact from Oxfam. Text N0INFO to 70066 to stop future SMS.



OXFAM
DEC MEMBER
TOGETHER
WE'RE
STRONGER



OXFAM

PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TODAY

I would like to make a donation of ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £200 ☐ Other £

☐ I enclose a cheque, made payable to **Oxfam Nepal Earthquake Appeal Ltd**
☐ Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro/CAF Charity card with the amount specified (we cannot accept Solo cards)

Signature Date

Title Forename Surname

Address Postcode

Card number - - - (Maestro only)

Start date / / Expiry date / / Issue No (Maestro only)

Send to: Freepost RRLG-TJG3-AZSX, Oxfam Nepal Earthquake Appeal, Notts, NG15 0DJ

INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR DONATION BY 25% ☐ Please tick here if you would like Oxfam to reclaim the tax that you have paid on any donations you have made in the previous four years (but no earlier than 1st April 2011) and any future donations you make. The tax reclaimed will be used to help fund the whole of Oxfam's work. *In order for Oxfam to reclaim the tax you have paid on your donations, you must have paid income or capital gains tax (in the UK) for each tax year (6th April to 5th April) at least equal to the tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. Please notify us if you are no longer eligible to gift aid your donations. *giftaid it*

We would like to keep you informed about our projects and activities. If you would rather not receive such information, please email us at changes@oxfam.org.uk, phone 0300 200 1300 or write to: Supporter Relations, Oxfam, Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Oxford, OX4 2DY. Oxfam is a member of Oxfam International, Reg. charity no. England & Wales 202918, Scotland SC039042. If we raise more money than is needed for this appeal, your donation will be used to help us respond to other humanitarian emergencies.

2015EXC006



SMOOTH: The singer has grown up since taking part in the X Factor

Ray Quinn puts X Factor behind him for new tour

Molly Kersey talks to the talented performer about life after reality TV show

WHEN he was just a teenager, Ray Quinn was catapulted into the national spotlight after becoming a favourite in the third series of reality TV show *The X Factor*.

He came second to Leona Lewis, signing with Simon Cowell's record label Sony BMG.

His first album, *Doing It My Way*, shot straight to number one in the charts and went platinum.

Despite being subsequently dropped from the label in 2007, things didn't slow down for him. As an actor, singer and dancer, the star has plenty of strings to his bow.

He appeared in West End shows *Dirty Dancing*, *Grease* and *Legally Blonde* and became something of a TV personality after winning the fourth series of *Dancing on Ice* in 2009 and the *All Stars* series in 2014.

He has returned to making music and now his new tour, *Dare to Dream*, will be making its way to the Woodville Theatre, Gravesend, on May 24.

"It's a pre-album tour," he explained.

"I have been in the studio over the last 10 to 12 months making music, all brand new stuff.

"I just wanted to get out on the road and perform it and see what my fans thought and bring them up to date."

And he said that the music he is making now is nothing like his 2007 debut swing album, *Doing It My Way*.

"It's completely different," he said. "The swing stuff was what I grew up with, I was a young child and it got me into music.

"This time around it's bringing myself right up to date in the pop

scene with a bit of soul and Motown in there.

"I'm now doing songs that I'm writing from my experiences and through maturity in the industry.

"It's not too far away from what people know, but I wanted to make the music I wanted to make and make the choices I wanted to make.

"It's taking myself towards a new direction, creating songs that move people and reaching out to a wider demographic."

And he said the return to making music has been natural.

"Being in the studio makes me feel right at home," he said.

His year is going to be jam packed, with an album release, tour and the release of his book – *This Time Around*.

As well as performing his music tour he will also be starring in *The Judy Garland Song Book* – which is

set to hit the stage in a couple of months, and features the star's daughter.

"There's going to be a few cross-overs," he said.

"There will be a couple of weekends when I am going to be gigging and doing my own tour and then performing in the *Judy Garland Song Book* in the week, but I don't mind hard work.

"It's all going very well so fingers crossed it continues."

Mr Quinn will be performing at The Woodville at 7.30pm.

The show takes places on May 24.

To find out more about the performance, or to buy tickets, you can visit the website www.woodville.co.uk.

Alternatively call the Woodville Theatre box office on 08442 439 480.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476



Follow us @KOSMedia or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure

Deplidge UK Productions Ltd. presents

Russian Ice Stars

Snow White on ice



STARRING
TV FAVOURITE
**RUSTIE
LEE**

REPORTING FOR
**FAIRY
NEWS**

**DARTFORD
ORCHARD THEATRE**

**ASSEMBLY HALL
THEATRE**



TUE 12 – SAT 16 MAY
orchardtheatre.co.uk
Ticket Office: 01322 220000

THU 21 – SUN 24 MAY
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
Ticket Office: 01892 530613

The Japanese drummers who reach to the 'dawn of history'

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE YAMATO Drummers of Japan will bring their brand new show Bakuon to Leas Cliff Hall Folkestone this month.

Bakuon takes the ancient art of Japanese Taiko Drumming and brings it bang up-to-date in a display of expertise and athleticism.

The Yamato Company was founded in 1993 in Japan's Kansai region by artistic director Masa Ogawa, who explains the company's ethos: "Taiko is a musical instrument deeply familiar to every Japanese person."

"Since the dawn of history, Taiko's rich reverberations have filled people with inspiration and encouragement in a wide range of settings."

"Its unmistakable sound is still heard throughout Japan today."

"We, the members of Yamato, believe in the unique value of Taiko."

"We are committed to preserving its traditions and exploring new possibilities for this majestic instrument."

"Our goal is to create ever more opportunities for the boom of Taiko"



ENERGETIC: The display is very athletic

to resound worldwide."

The full show involves about 30 people.

Ogawa says: "We have drums ranging from 30cm in diameter to one that weighs 500kg."

"It's made from the trunk of a 400-year-old oak tree that has been hollowed out with cow skin stretched across either end."

"Taiko has spiritual origins in the ancient Buddhist Temples of Ja-

pan. We remain true to those."

"As a company we eat together, live together, do everything together because when we perform, we want to perform as one."

"Sometimes there may be arguments but then we understand each other so we share an understanding of how each other plays and are as people."

"We're like a family really."

"Other Taiko groups live sepa-

ately and just meet to perform but that is not our way."

"We believe everything is sacred and so we do everything 100 per cent."

The Yamato Drummers of Japan bring Bakuon to the Leas Cliff Hall on Folkestone on May 11.

For more information, call the box office on 0844 871 3015.

You can also visit the website at atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Not just clowning around

THE Netherlands National Circus will be performing at Dunorlan Park in Tunbridge Wells on May 14.

Tickets cost between £12 and £26. Visit www.ticketmaster.co.uk for more information.



Sun, sea, sand and songs

THE DEAL Festival will run from June 26 until July 12, and will feature a variety of cultural activities, including lots of musical events.

Tickets for the festival go on sale on May 11 at The Astor Theatre in Deal, for more information, call the box office on 01304 370220 or visit www.astor.org.

Time off campaign trail

COMEDIAN and candidate for South Thanet Al Murray will be performing an election night gig at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

Tickets cost £26, for more information call 01322 220000.



Chuckling in Chatham

THE LAUGHING Boy comedy club returns to the Brook Theatre in Chatham.

The performance takes place on June 11 at 7.45pm.

Tickets cost £11.

For more information about the show, or to buy tickets, visit the website at www.medwayticketslive.co.uk.

The Show with something for everybody

Weald Country & Craft Show & The Festivals of Dogs

3rd & 4th May AT WEALD COUNTRY PARK, WEALD ROAD, SOUTH WEALD, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX, CM14 5QS

*** Inch Perfect Motorbike Stunts * Falconry * Horse Carriage Racing * Sheep Racing * Rural Crafters & Crafts * Zulu Dancers * Lifesize T-Rex Dinosaur * Magic Shows * Cookery Demonstrations * Music * Model Aircraft Flying * Dog Agility & Dog Shows - Festivals of Dogs * Galloping Acrobatics * Gemma's Petting Zoo * Amazing Reptiles * Punch and Judy * Foraging and Wildlife Talks * Team Kinetex as on Britains Got Talent * Archery & much more**

www.wealdcountryshow.co.uk Adults 7.50 Concessions 6.00 Children 3.00

Online Discounts

A brush with puppet Basil

FAMOUS fox Basil Brush will appear at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on August 28.

Tickets cost between £13.40 and £16.90.

For more information, visit www.atgtickets.com.



A giggle and a pint of ale

THE OLD Brewery Store in Faversham will host a comedy club on May 7, which is a platform for local, up and coming comedians to showcase their talent.

Tickets cost £5 and are available to purchase by calling 01795 542285 and in person at the Shepherd Neame brewery

Battle of the machines

BASED on the television programme, Robot Wars the tour will come to Maidstone Leisure Centre on October 17.

Tickets cost £16.

For more information, visit www.seetickets.com.



The joy of dance and song

DIRTY Dancing the musical will be coming to Swanley Park on June 15.

The musical is adapted from the classic 1987 movie, which starred Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

Tickets start at £12.50. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.seetickets.com.

Scottish rocker Midge Ure revisits Celtic roots

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

MIDGE Ure, co-writer of smash hit single Do They Know It's Christmas? will be performing in Kent this month.

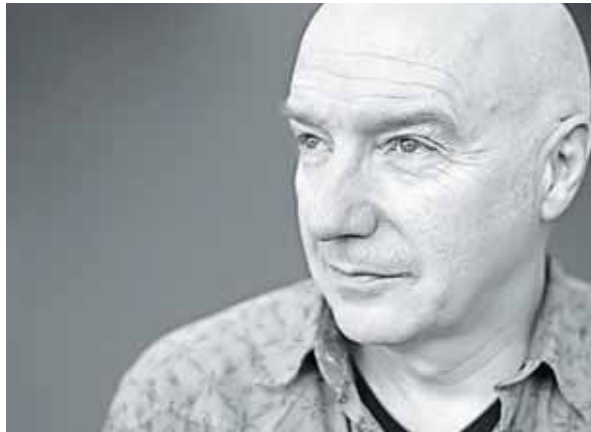
Over a 40 year career, the Scottish rocker has fronted Ultravox as well as playing with bands like Thin Lizzy. He is co-organiser of Band Aid, Live Aid and Live 8 with Bob Geldof

Now he is describing his new tour as a return to 'his Celtic roots', where he will perform songs from his album Breathe as well as his hit singles including Vienna.

A spokesman said: "In 1995, Midge delivered his fourth solo album, Breathe, just 10 years after the phenomenal successes of Band Aid and Live Aid.

"Always one to ring the changes, this album had a very Celtic feel with a plethora of acoustic instruments from uilleann pipes to mandolins and accordions alongside Midge's trademark soaring electric guitar riffs.

"The title track was picked up by Swatch watches and headed their



most successful advertising campaign ever.

"The album went triple platinum and was a massive success all over Europe.

"After the successful reformation of Ultravox in 2009, Mr Ure feels it's time to revisit his Celtic roots, and will perform Breathe in its entirety for the first time in 2015."

He is also expected to play a selection of his other hits like Dancing with Tears in My Eyes, Fade to Grey and If I Was, as well

as songs from his recently released album Fragile, which was Radio 2 playlisted.

Midge Ure and the India Electric Co will perform at the Gulbenkian Theatre on May 17 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £18.

For more information and to buy tickets, you can visit the theatre's website at www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

You can also call the Gulbenkian Theatre box office on 01227 769075.



SEASONED: Ure has been performing for more than 40 years



POWERFUL: Midge Ure and India Electric

MAMA USED TO SAY NATIVE NEW YORKER GOING BACK TO MY ROOTS

John hessenthaler for OEP Live! presents

GWEN DICKEY From ROSE ROYCE

HEATWAVE

PHIL FEARON

BOOGIE NIGHTS

ARE ALWAYS THE BEST NIGHTS IN TOWN!

JUNIOR

the legendary EDWIN STARR BAND

ALL ON STAGE IN THE SAME NIGHT OF NON-STOP HITS DEFINITELY NOT TO BE MISSED

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE

Saturday 9th May 2015 7.30pm

orchardtheatre.co.uk • Ticket Office: 01322 220000

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT... USE IT UP WHEN IT'S OUT! ALWAYS! NEVER! MIND BLOWING DECISIONS BOOGIE NIGHTS 20 MILES STOP HER ON SIGHT HAPPY RADIO

INSIDE OUT WAR www.oeplive.com CONTACT CAR WASH

WEALD COUNTRY SHOW TICKET OFFER

Even bigger and better than last year, the Weald Country Show and Festivals of Dogs will be opening its gates to celebrate on May 3rd & 4th.

• Falconry • Galloping Acrobatics • Inch Perfect Stunt Bikes • Team Kinetex as seen on Britains Got Talent • Carriage Racing • Dog shows with over 15 classes • Dog agility • flyball • The Zulu Dancers • Sheep racing and much more...

Adults Tickets £7.50, Concession £6.00, Children £3.00 – Advance Ticket offers available online www.wealdcountryshow.co.uk for full details

SAVE £2 off full adults admission

Weald Country and Craft Show and Festivals of Dogs

Sunday 3rd and 4th May

Weald Country Park, Weald Road, South Weald, Essex, CM14 5QS

Simply present your token at the gate to receive £2 off your ticket price

Only one voucher per person



Vauxhall Holiday Park, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

GREAT YARMOUTH'S

Vauxhall

5 STAR HOLIDAY PARK

School Holidays SAVE 10% QUOTE VAP

Great Value Family Holidays & Breaks

We at Vauxhall believe in giving you a great choice of accommodation whatever your budget. Our range of homes, touring and camping pitches are aimed at ensuring you'll find the right accommodation at the right price.

Free with your holiday, enjoy these facilities:

- Indoor Tropical Water World • Sports World
- The Splash Zone & Sun Terraces • Discos
- Live Cabaret • Louie's Treehouse Playground
- 12-17's Hideout Club • Louie's Kidz Club
- 5 Star Entertainment every evening • WiFi

Call now for your FREE Brochure

01493 857231

Vauxhall Holiday Park, 40 Acle New Road, Great Yarmouth NR30 1TB REF 40

www.vauxhallholidaypark.co.uk

Why passion is the key ingredient to success...

Food blogger **Natasha Corrett** talks about food, work, and her interior designer mother Kelly Hoppen

IF YOU'RE giving your home a clear-out this spring, Natasha Corrett wants you to spare a thought for your kitchen.

"We spring clean our wardrobes and chuck out all the old clothes we don't want to wear any more," says the chef and food blogger. "I do a bit of a cull in my kitchen and find things I don't really need. The amount of times I've gone through my drawers and found measuring spoons broken in half, blunt knives..."

The author of the *Honestly Healthy* blog and cookbooks, offering tips and recipes for health-conscious foodies, Ms Corrett knows a thing or two about kitchens. In fact, she's currently helping her mum, celebrity interior designer and former *Dragon's Den* in-

vestor Kelly Hoppen, to design the functionality of her new one.

Ms Hoppen has been "an amazing mentor" to the chef, whose father is restaurateur Graham Corrett.

"My mum said to me, 'As long as you're passionate about what you do, you'll succeed, because that's what's going to get you through those late nights and early mornings and working on the weekend', and she was right. You never want to say your mum's right, but she was!"

The pair work out of the same office in London, but Ms Corrett insists it isn't too close for comfort.

"I'm always out and about, recipe-developing or filming, so it's maybe once every two weeks that we'll have lunch together," she says. "It's quite nice to



DEDICATED: Natasha Corrett says passion is essential in her career

have each other and have a cuddle if we're feeling stressed, stuff like that."

Busy Ms Corrett – an advocate of the alkaline diet, which involves eating mainly alkaline foods for the optimum pH balance – has also teamed up with Currys PC World to create new recipes based on some of the most popular foods and kitchen appliances on social media (with papaya, roasted aubergine and pomegranates getting people talking and sharing snaps).

She confesses to the occasional evening "sitting in front of the TV and watching *EastEnders*", tucking into her "guilty pleasure, a proper good old-fashioned pizza".

"My whole philosophy is my 70-30 rule. So 70% of the time, you follow the alkaline way, 30% of the time you do

whatever you want, whether it be eating meat, having a chocolate brownie, or a glass of wine or a cocktail," she adds.

With 120,000 Instagram followers and 26,000 on Twitter, Ms Corrett's approach to healthy eating has been a hit. As well as the health factor, her recipes are often very simple too, so there really is no excuse!

She loves nothing more than getting messages from fans online who have tried out her methods.

"When you're at home working away creating things, you can forget that there's a whole world out there about to try these recipes," she says. "When people take photos and upload them, and tell you how easy it was and how delicious they were, it really makes it worthwhile."

Bugsy steals the show

CHILDREN'S gangster musical *Bugsy* Malone comes to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall between August 20 and 22.

This musical version of the 1976 Alan Parker/David Puttnam film which starred Scott Baio and Jodie Foster is cast with children.

Tickets cost £11.90

For more information, you can visit www.allgigs.co.uk.

Interactive orchestra

CONDUCTOR Mariss Jansons presents a programme of music by Bartók, Ravel and Shostakovich during a live broadcast of the Berliner Philharmoniker.

This broadcast from Berlin will be screened at the Cinema in Canterbury's Gulbenkian.

Tickets cost £10.

For more information, visit the venue's website at www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

That Manhattan Magic

ON JUNE 19 the auditorium at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells will be transformed into an intimate cabaret space for performances by jazz and blues musicians Manhattan Magic and Groove Agents.

The music starts at 8pm.

For more information, you can visit the theatre's website at www.trinitytheatre.net, or call the box office on 01892 678678.

That'll Be The Day

RETRO touring show *That'll Be The Day* comes to the Stag Community Arts Centre and Theatre in Sevenoaks on June 24.

The rock 'n' roll show features hits of the 50s, 60s and 70s. The musical, first performed in 1986, takes its name from the 1957 Buddy Holly song.

For more information, visit www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or call 01732 450175.

BUSINESS UNIT TO LET

Chapman Way Estate Tunbridge Wells

1400 sqft. Refurbished unit with mezzanine office / kitchenette. Large sliding door, parking, 3 phase power.

Good position on security guarded estate. Promotional advertising fronting main road included. **01732 864211**



MAN, VAN & SAM REMOVALS

No job too small
DSS Welcome. 24 hour service.
Free estimates. Friendly advice
and competitive rates.
Storage facility available.

www.manvanandsam.co.uk

01634 280085 07889 308755

Local Authority Approved



The Local Handyman



Plumbing (City & Guilds Qualified) ~ Bathrooms
Washing Machines Installed ~ Radiators Moved
Landlords / Property Maintenance ~ Guttering
Painting/Decorating ~ Flat Pack Assembly
Garden Maintenance ~ Hedge Trimming
Laminate Flooring ~ General Repairs ~ Odd Jobs

No job too small ~ References Available

Fully Insured ~ All areas of Kent covered

Call Clive: 07765 663322

Bloomers Restaurant

Cosy, intimate, candlelit, romantic

AS SEEN
ON
**BBC
TV**
BOOK NOW

01474 322131

15-16 The Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF

www.overcliffhotel.co.uk



Help make up your mind
by following the twists
and turns of the election
campaign every day on

ARCHIVE KOS MEDIA newspapers . magazines . web . mobile . ipad

kentnews.co.uk

and this weekend in
Kent on Sunday



FULLY RESERVED SEATED OUTDOOR CONCERT

SUNDAY 31 MAY
KENT EVENT CENTRE
KENT SHOWGROUND
NR MAIDSTONE

AXS.COM • 08448 24 48 24

HOSPITALITY ENQUIRIES CALL 01622 633 064

Tickets sold subject to booking fee and Promoters terms & conditions (details on request).
Disabled customers advised to book early. Subject to licence.

Media Partner **KM** **WMM**

eltonjohn.com a Monash Arts Ltd presentation in association with **ROCKET**

Find over...



...takeaways
in London on
[localsearch24.](http://localsearch24.co.uk)

localsearch24.co.uk
your trusted local directory

Honouring the fallen of Gallipoli

TRAVEL REVIEW: Gallipoli

By Chris Wiltshire

THERE'S some corner of a foreign field that will always be close to my heart. It's a parched piece of scrubland, littered with fir cones, overlooking a glorious turquoise bay, and just about as far removed from the stereotypical images of the mud-laden First World War as you could possibly get.

And yet it was here, on the scorching banks of the Dardanelles Strait in northern Turkey, almost a hundred years ago to the day, that my grandfather – and indeed my very existence – hung by the most delicate of threads.

Fighting alongside the Gloucester 7th battalion in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign, Albert Wiltshire – known to all as Bert, was cut down by a Turkish bayonet in hand-to-hand combat and left for dead.

Just days earlier he had been “blown sky-high by a mortar shell”, according to a letter sent to his brother, Graham, but this time, there seemed no hope for him. Bert lay injured with a gaping wound to his side and didn't move.

He had survived the opening skirmishes of the Great War at Mons and Le Cateau in France in August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force, but it looked as though his number was up.

However, 24 hours after the battle, as the orderlies were picking up the dead, one of them noticed Bert's eyes flicker and summoned for help. Miraculously, he was still alive.

It took him months to recover but, although only 5ft 3in tall, Bert was as tough as the old boots he used to repair as a cobbler, and he rejoined the army in Baghdad and Salonica.

He was one of very few Tommies from the original army to have survived the Great War. He was my hero.

Like many of the war veterans, Bert



STRIKING: The attractive landscape lies in stark contrast to Gallipoli's bloody history

suffered from the debilitating effects of shell shock and mustard gas and slipped away while I was still in short trousers.

Now, 40 years on, I felt it my duty to retrace his steps, to make some sense of the sacrifice of the 56,000 Allies (and almost identical number of Turks), who never came home from that campaign. I wanted to picture where he had fought and to be able to tell my children, and perhaps grandchildren, about it.

Our tour party to the Gallipoli pe-

ninsula – a four-hour coach journey from the centre of bustling Istanbul – is dominated by Antipodeans, many combining a trip to the battlefields as part of a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Europe's famous cities and landmarks.

Refreshingly, there are four twentysomethings in the group wanting to pay their respects. None of them have an old relative to honour, but simply feel the need to be there.

One of the more worldly-wise Aussies in our party, Sandra, from Mel-

bourne, tells me in hushed tones that many feel it's their “rite of passage” and that, after declining interest in the war in the 1980s and 90s, youngsters are now flying over to Gallipoli “in their droves”.

In fact, so many wanted to visit Gallipoli and take part in official commemorative services on the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day that a ballot had to be held a year ago to restrict numbers.

A part of me wishes more British youngsters felt the same need.

TRAVEL FACTS

■ Chris Wiltshire was a guest of Direct Traveller (0844 414 3071; directtraveller.com) who offers a five-day tour from £315pp, including B&B accommodation, transport, entrance fees, guide and three lunches/one dinner.
:: Atlasglobal (atlasglobe.com) flies daily from London Luton to Istanbul Ataturk, with one-way fares starting from £68.

As we reach Anzac Cove, excited chatter quickly gives way to hushed reflection.

The story goes that a ship carrying Aussie soldiers missed its landing spot, the aptly named Cape Helles, because of high winds and strong current, and pitched up at a beach several miles away.

Under the cover of darkness, dozens of soldiers tried to make their way up the impossibly steep bank to confront the enemy and were mowed down by machine gun fire.

Grisly reminders of the fearsome fighting still litter the peninsula, including ivy-covered trenches so close to each other that you could throw something from one side to the other.

The night before the tour, I'd booked into the beachside Iris Hotel, a few miles from Canakkale, and watched, with an icy beer in hand, as huge oil-laden tankers carved their way through the perilous deep-blue Dardanelles waters. I could just make out the Helles Memorial statue and Turkish flag some two miles away.

I just wish my grandfather and some of his brave pals had been there to see it so that I could raise a toast and thank them. They may have lost the battle, but their efforts were, ultimately, oh so worth it.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (12A, 119 mins)

Romance/Drama
A RECENT re-release of John Schlesinger's 1967 version of Far From The Madding Crowd provided a timely reminder of the raw emotional power of Thomas Hardy's late 19th-century novel and Julie Christie's luminous portrayal

of heroine, Bathsheba Everdene.

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg brings a delicate touch to this handsome new incarnation, which runs 50 minutes shorter than its predecessor and is undernourished as a consequence.

While Vinterberg's vision, filmed on location in pastoral Dorset, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, lacks emotional heft, it packs a mighty visual punch thanks to cinematographer Charlotte Bruus Christensen.

Rolling landscapes look invitingly wild and untamed, bathed largely in natural light, and the nascent beauty of leading lady Carey Mulligan shines through the artfully composed muck and grime.

UNFRIENDED (15, 83 mins) Horror/Thriller/Romance

AN online prank spirals out of control in Unfriended, which takes the philosophical concept of a 'ghost in the machine' to the outlandish next level.

Directed by Levan Gabriadze and written by Nelson Greaves, this sleek horror pits a group of high school students against an online predator, one year after their classmate committed suicide.

The intriguing set-up promises more than the film can ultimately deliver.

Even though the ghoulish payoff is a let-down, director Gabriadze has undoubtedly stumbled upon an intriguing new way to unsettle audiences, who will think twice about logging onto social media as soon as the end credits roll.

TWO BY TWO: OOOPS... THE ARK HAS GONE (U, 87 mins) Animation/Family/Comedy/Action



THE biblical story of Noah, neatly encapsulated in six chapters of the book of Genesis, provides a weak catalyst for this derivative computer-animated adventure, which strives to emulate the Ice Age films but falls woefully short of that franchise's visual sophistication and belly laughs.

Co-directors Toby Genkel and

Sean McCormack chart a pedestrian course through shallow dramatic waters, bringing together cuddly critters in a race against time to escape an apocalyptic downpour.

Thankfully Genkel and McCormack's film only lasts 87 minutes, but that still feels like a slog.

AS the weather warms up, the grass will be growing – so you need to get rid of lumps, bumps and bald patches to ensure you have a carpet of green velvet in the months ahead.

A good-looking, healthy lawn not only makes the whole garden look tidy and provides a wonderful framework for colourful beds and borders, but it also helps encourage wildlife into the garden.

You should already have begun work on drainage and oxygenation, but it's still not too late to scarify the lawn with a spring tine rake to remove thatch – dead grass that mats beneath growing grass – and moss. For larger lawns, it's worth renting a petrol driven lawn scarifier to do the same job.

If you have loads of moss, apply a moss killer before you scarify and wait a few days before raking it up, following instructions carefully.

Next, you need to improve badly draining soil by aerating the lawn, driving a garden fork into the ground all over the lawn when it is moist, making holes to a depth of 10-15cm (4-6in). I once bought a pair of lawn aerating shoes, but they were pretty cumbersome and kept falling off, so I went back to the fork.

Others use hollow-tine lawn aerators which remove plugs of soil from the ground, but they are hard work and aren't very good on stony soils or heavy, dry soils.

The holes you make allow air and water to get into the grass roots and



ELBOW GREASE: A perfect lawn requires some effort

Preen your lawn to perfection

should then be filled with a mixture of sharp sand and organic soil conditioner to stop the holes from closing up.

Feed the grass with lawn fertiliser available at most garden centres. This can be done by hand, applying approximately two grams per square metre, and water it in. All lawns need good drainage and oxygenation. Some lawn dressings incorporate a

slow-release fertiliser but if this isn't the case, add a little amount of general lawn fertiliser (not containing weed or moss killer) before applying it. Make sure you brush it evenly over the area or it will become patchy when the fertiliser kicks in.

A few weeks later, if your lawn is still patchy, oversow it lightly with a quality lawn seed.

By summer, you should be mowing weekly, stepping up to twice a week when necessary, but don't mow the grass shorter than 2.5cm (1in) high and keep on top of weeds in the lawn. Annual weeds which emerge in any bare patches will be removed by mowing. Feeding should continue monthly through the summer, and in the autumn a high-potash fertiliser

should be applied to keep grass luxuriant over the winter.

If it becomes necessary to water the lawn, avoid evaporation by watering in the early morning, late evening or using a timer at night. And even if watering does have to stop completely for a while and the lawn goes brown, it will recover once the rain comes.

They want to govern - but YOU decide!



Everyone is interested in what will happen in Kent, but the result will be decided by YOU, the voters.

Help to make up your mind by following the twists and turns of the election campaign every day on

 **kentnews.co.uk**

and every weekend in **Kent on Sunday**









CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH, Supporting **HELP FOR HEROES & PILGRIMS HOSPICE**

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE
2PM KICK OFF, GATES OPEN 11AM
GALLAGHER STADIUM, MAIDSTONE

RAZOR RUDDOCK & GAZZA 11 V MICKY HAZARD ALLSTARS

Razor & Gazza team Captained by BRIAN MCFADDEN, includes Jimmy Bullard, David Howells, Dean Windass, Tubes, Danny Kedwell, Des Walker, Trevor Sinclair. MICKY HAZARD'S team, Kevin Horlock, Steve Slade, Stuart Nethercott, Glen Little, Kem Izzet, Kevin Watson, Ralf Little and Nicky Shorey.

TICKETS £6.50 Adults, £3.50 CHILD under 16
Buy on website at www.ashfordcharityfunds.co.uk
Contact 07850747198 for details



JIMMY BULLARD



MICKY HAZARD



CRYSTALS CHEERLEADERS








ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE TICKET SALES/RAFFLE TO BE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN H4H AND THE PILGRIMS HOSPICE

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House,
 81 Station Road, Ashford,
 TN23 1PP
Email:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter:
[@kosmedia](https://twitter.com/kosmedia)

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Ukip will make a real difference

THE red and blue teams are used to a two-horse race with the yellow upstarts muddying the water on occasions (KoS, last week).

In 2010 the reds ran out of money. The blues promised they would give us a referendum on the EU then blamed the yellows for their inability to deliver.

Fast forward to 2015 and the reds can only win if they promise the SNP another break-up-the-UK referendum, but don't want the rest of us to have an EU one; the blues can only win if they can con us into thinking Germany and 26 other countries are willing to rewrite the EU constitution to suit Great Britain and graft wings to pink pigs.

So the cosy Westminster clan have come up with a cunning plan; blame Ukip.

I truly believe we can still run UK Ltd ourselves even if the reds, blues and yellows don't have the talent to do it. If you mix red and blue paint together you get purple.

David Steed,
 Manston

Fight on to save our libraries

KENT on Sunday has kept people across Kent well informed, via its Feedback page, about the 'save our public libraries' petition.

Readers may like to know that, by the time it was delivered to County Hall in Maidstone, more than 4,000 people had signed.

The petition opposed cuts and closures to libraries and called on Kent County Council to continue running Kent's 99 much-loved libraries as an integrated public service, democratically accountable through councillors, and with professional library staff.

The petition was a response to KCC's proposal to hand the library service over to a trust. If enacted this would be a huge change.

The library service has been paid for by many generations and a trust would introduce new uncertainty and risk to the future of Kent's libraries.

Many people thought that KCC's consultation document about this change did not identify these risks, nor did it set out the hidden costs of a trust that would all come out of the libraries budget.

The 4,000 signatures was a strong call for a full council debate about the way forward. This debate

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Why did you forget the Catholic church?

WHAT a strange and incomplete article (KoS, last week) about loss of faith in the UK.

The reporter begins by asking the Anglican Bishop of Rochester.

For it is true that many Church of England churches have dwindling congregations, many churches are closing and parishes are amalgamating.

The same is largely true of Baptist, Methodist and URC churches, although they do not rate a mention.

Islam is then covered, along with Sikhism, Judaism and even Humanism, which is not even rated as a religion for the purposes of the survey.

Yet he deliberately skews the findings by omitting the largest church membership in the UK, which is the Roman Catholic church. Perhaps he hasn't heard of it? The churches are full to bursting every Sunday and it is often difficult to find a seat.

In Maidstone for example, there

are eight masses every Sunday, and they are all full. That is several thousand Catholics every Sunday just for one town in Kent, all practising their religious beliefs.

In Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells, and Tonbridge the same story, and indeed throughout all the RC churches in the UK. And every Easter, thousands more are admitted to the RC church, and 3.5 million Catholics in the UK overall. 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide.

The church in this country does not consist of just the dying Church of England, and the article gives a very biased view by deliberately omitting the largest church organisation in the UK.

A bit more balance please if you are going to write articles on religious faith... the Catholic church is the largest repository of faith in the country.

Patrick Storror
 via email

Homophobia is still real danger

SO, very tellingly, John Humphrey avoids replying to my letter last week, opting to complain only about Chris Hudson-Gool's equally valid points; and then rehashing the 'gay cure' nonsense etc.

He reveals his early teens issues with sexuality; but these are, then and now, only what happens naturally during puberty, and are in no way "unhealthy", nor

"straying" into being gay. It's quite common to have feelings both ways early on, but these settle from mid to late teens into most people being straight and few becoming gay or bisexual.

The Bible says quite little on sex overall. Jesus himself is not recorded as speaking on the issue and again said little on sex overall; even in the newly rediscovered 'other' Gospels.

He then implies he's had contact with other gay people, but confuses homophobia for valid criticism of his stance; and then tries again to say the former should not really exist anymore!

Tell that to those in Russia, Uganda, Nigeria etc who are under threat of attacks, jail, or death on a daily basis.

The fact remains though that 'true freedom' lies not in bogus gay cures or repressing feelings, Mr Humphrey, but in accepting them, and allowing and enabling others to do the same.

Ray Duff,
 Folkestone

Back local boy in the big race

WORK took me away from South Thanet after the last election but I still have huge affection for the area and many friends who live there.

The Labour Government drove the area forward, halved unemployment, brought in the HS1 fast train service, delivered the East Kent Access road scheme, transformed the NHS in east Kent and provided children's centres and new school buildings so young people would get the start in life they deserved.

Watching that progress come to a grinding halt under the Tory led coalition has been heartbreaking so I can understand local people wanting a fresh start. But the mean-spirited, little England policies of Ukip are not the answer.

Nor does the new Tory candidate provide a meaningful alternative. He only offers Ukip policies in a different colour. He was a leading member of Ukip for many years, standing for election for them on five occasions, and has no connections with South Thanet.

I lived in the area for many years before becoming MP, and Laura Sandys, to her credit, also spent four years getting to know the area before running. I disagreed with her on many things, but on this point I must give her her due.

Will Scobie, for Labour, is of course as local as they come.

Dr Stephen Ladyman,
 South Thanet MP, 1997-2010

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.

2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.

3) Be written in clear, concise English.

4) Not be overly sensational.

5) Have a sense of humour.

6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Sheppey Bridge by **Brian Summers,** **Faversham**

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any-duration **Dover-Calais return crossing** for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year, courtesy of...



To see your photograph printed, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.

 **Broome Park Golf Club** | Barham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 6QX



MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

**7 day membership
for £600**

**5 Day membership
for £400**

Terms & Conditions apply

EASY ACCESS FROM M2/A2 or M20

For further information please contact
Del or Claire on **01227 830728**
www.broomepark.co.uk

Text BROOME to 67000
for a chance to **WIN**
a round of golf

ESCAPE TO ST. MARGARET'S BAY

Looking to escape to a luxury 4* holiday retreat?

Then look no further than St. Margaret's Bay Holiday Park.
With exclusive use of the Balance Spa and Health Club it's the perfect place to relax & unwind.



**NEW
HOLIDAY HOMES
FROM ONLY
£3,900
DEPOSIT***

**FINANCE
AVAILABLE***

Call us **FREE** today on **0808 102 1686**

or visit us online at www.park-resorts.com/own-stm

St Margaret's Holiday Park, Reach Road, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Nr Dover, Kent, CT15 6AG

* Prices and deposits vary between models and Park Resorts Parks. * Finance is subject to status and deposit criteria, written details upon request.



www.QCRsales.co.uk

CAR REPAIRS & DIAGNOSTICS

Any make of car, van
or four wheel drive

**Air Con
Regassing
£45+VAT**

**All makes of cars
and vans**

**Keys & Keyfob
repairs**

**Cutting and
reprogramming**

ALL ASPECTS OF ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

- Good Garage Scheme
- Budget Batteries
- Heater Blowers
- Car Light Bulbs
- Key & Fob Repairs
- Immobiliser & Alarm
- Code Reading
- H.I.D Lights Fitted
- Parking Sensors
- ABS, Air Bag & Air Con Fault Finding
- MOT Testing & Servicing
- Air Con Regassing

SERVICING YOUR VEHICLE TO THE INDUSTRY STANDARD

We service your vehicle to a detailed fifty point service report. You will be provided with a completed copy of the industry standard service report. Guarantee of value for money servicing and reassurance of a job well done.



Please ring Mick on **01634 238 777 / 07801 429 527**
1 Hotfield Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8BJ
Email qcrmick@hotmail.co.uk **Just off Station Road**

**OPEN
6 DAYS
A WEEK**

Wealden Hall

London Road, Larkfield,
Kent, ME20 6DE

Telephone:
01732 840259

wealdenhall.larkfield@greeneking.co.uk

Cut this out to receive a
FREE bottle of wine
when 2 meals are purchased
from our new menu.
throughout May.

All day, every day
Ts and Cs apply.



A great range of fencing & gates Beautiful timber

selected to your specifications by experts

From decking to sleepers



For all your timber needs

01227 720537
www.winghamtimber.com

WINGHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
GOODNESTONE ROAD,
WINGHAM, CANTERBURY,
KENT, CT3 1AR

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 8-5, Sat: 8.30-12.30



WINGHAM TIMBER & MOULDINGS LTD



Send us your business news.

Phone: 01223 653481

Write to: Kent House,
81 Station Road, Ashford,
TN23 1PP

Email:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Twitter:
@kosmedia

For more business visit
businessforkent.co.uk



GROWTH: Kent's Federation of Small Business wants whoever wins the election to simplify business systems

Growth is big issue at election for business

by **Jamie Weir**

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

WITH Tuesday's announcement from the Office for National Statistics that growth across the country had slowed to just 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of the year, businesses across Kent are hoping that whichever party forms the government after the General Election, will create an environment fit for growth.

The slowdown, says the Labour Party, was as a result of the Conservative Party failing to invest for people. The Tories hit back, with Chancellor George Osborne, who was in Ramsgate earlier in the week to discuss the

coastal communities regeneration fund, saying that growth 'couldn't be taken for granted and the future of the economy would depend on the ballot paper come May 7'.

Jo James, the chief executive at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, told KoS that whoever won, stability for the county's businesses would be the key factor following the election.

She said: "It is essential that whatever party or parties are in power for the next term the priority needs to be providing an environment that is conducive to business growth and enterprise.

"Things need to quickly settle down and to create a stable environment that will enable

businesses to plan and invest for the long term."

The CEO also says that the chamber has put together what it calls a 'business plan for Britain'; a set of things she believes were necessary to deliver growth.

She said: "Britain's next government should be assessed against stretching economic aspirations so that businesses and voters can judge our political class by what they help us to achieve.

"By maintaining a relentless focus on policies that deliver prosperity, the next government can help to achieve these aspirations."

Her wish list of items to be tackled by the new government

Swedish bank arrives in Ashford

ASHFORD town centre got a business boost, after Handelsbanken announced it would open a new branch in International House.



The Swedish banking group said it had been attracted to Ashford as the location for its new office due to the high speed rail network and regeneration efforts in the town's new commercial quarter.

Safety first for Swale Heating

SITTINGBOURNE-based business, Swale Heating was this week named Regional Social Housing Contractor of the Year at the annual Association of Gas Safety Managers (AGSM) awards

Judges said the company had made huge efforts to maintain safety. The company was nominated by one of the UK's biggest social housing providers Affinity Sutton.

Big opportunity for developers

SAVILLS has announced it will be auctioning a strategic development site which forms part of Temple Waterfront in Rochester.

The business will be selling the land - which has outline planning permission for a mixed use development - on behalf of cement maker Lafarge. It's expected to sell for around £5 million.

The auction is on May 14 at Nottingham Racecourse.

A great place to do business ...

WELCOME!

THORLEY TAVERNS

STUNNING LOCATIONS
www.thorleytaverns.co.uk/hotels.asp

PEGWELL BAY HOTEL, RAMSGATE T: 01843 599590 - OAK HOTEL, RAMSGATE T: 01843 583686

asb law
the law firm clients
would design

You speak, we listen, together we create the solution

To start a conversation, please contact us on +44 (0)1622 656500
or email contact@asb-law.com

asb law

www.asb-law.com



Continued from front

includes topics as diverse as training and education, infrastructure and competitiveness across different international markets.

The backbone of the UK economy, small business, is also calling on whichever party gets into power to deliver on a shopping list of policies which it believes will help support the sector in the future.

The Federation of Small Businesses - a national campaign group - says that what is needed for growth is straight forward support for small employers.

Its Kent business development officer, Alison Parmar, told KoS that after the election, she hopes government would continue the work it has started on business rate reform.

She said: "One thing we're fighting for is business rates to be thoroughly overhauled. It's an archaic system currently, and one which has stunted business growth in the past. The chancellor has previously committed to reviewing it and reforming it, and we want to see that carried out whoever gets into government."

"Across Kent broadband connectivity is still a big issue for many small businesses. We want to see more support for those businesses, as good broadband connections open up a whole new range of possibilities for companies like exporting abroad and e-commerce."

The key thing, though, according to Mrs Parmar, is that small businesses get a clearer steer on what's required from government - something critical in Kent, with around 13,000 small businesses setting up in the county last year.

“ Clarity in areas which have always been difficult for small business will be crucial if governments wants to help engineer growth going forward....

Alison Parmar,
Federation of Small Businesses



She said: "In Kent we are looking for things to be simplified. The FSB wants small business to sit at the heart of government, as it adds so much to the economy. Its contribution is huge, both in terms of jobs created as well as money in the economy generated. We want government to sit up and take note of all that small businesses do, and to give it a proper place at the table."

One thing which Mrs Parmar says should help instantly is for certain areas of red-tape to be slimmed down.

She said: "Clarity in areas which have always been troublesome for small business will be crucial if governments wants to help engineer growth going forward."

"Things like tax regulations, which can be incredibly complex, need to be streamlined so that businesses which are only employing a handful of staff are able to deal with them."

"If government can make small business a part of what it does, and simplify certain things, then the county should be set for growth going forward."

Campaign hopes to help rural producers

by **Jamie Weir**

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE county's rural businesses will get a boost as online campaign Make One Change aims to encourage people to shop locally.

The campaign launched at the beginning of May, and is looking to support small rural food and drinks businesses across the county, by creating a directory of local producers for the public.

A number of Kent's producers and small farms shops are set to benefit from the scheme, which is asking consumers to make one change to their usual shopping habits - either by buying locally, supporting a rural producer, or boycotting chain supermarkets.

The scheme is the brainchild of rural food and drink website, BigBarn, which says it hopes the small change can make a big difference.

"With almost 60 per cent of our retail spend made in the supermarkets, it is time to make a change to the way we shop and ensure that small, rural businesses can survive," explains Anthony Davison, founder of BigBarn.

"At BigBarn we are always striving to find new ways to entice people away from the su-



EASY: The campaign looks to show how simple it is to support local producers

permarkets and into small, independent stores. The aim of Make One Change is to prove that small changes make a big difference and that shopping locally doesn't have to be a challenge."

"Shopping locally is not only a more appealing and pleasant experience, but it can also save money. What we've always found in the past is that once a person makes a decision to change the way they shop, it normally leads onto other small changes. We're hoping this campaign will be the start of a whole new way of thinking for people and prove that local food is best."



Financial, Tax & Advisory Services

"DSH just made everything simple"

Samson Hajalie, Mornington Cars

Advice that's clear and simple

01622 690666

www.dsh.co.uk

DSH
Chartered Accountants
& Business Advisors
Your Partners in Business

elton
ELTON JOHN
& HIS BAND

ELTON JOHN HOSPITALITY
Sunday 31 May 2015
Kent Event Centre, Kent Showground
Detling, Nr Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3JF

Table of 10	£2,300 plus VAT
Individual Tickets	£250 plus VAT

The Detling Package

- Private indoor hospitality area
- Private access to the showground
- VIP parking
- Top price tickets
- Glass of Champagne on arrival
- A Complimentary drink at the bar
- Three course cold luncheon with half a bottle of wine with coffee and chocolates
- Private washroom facilities
- Private cash bar
- Post event bar and hospitality access

For more details or to book please contact:
Alison Wallington on 01622 633 064 or alison@kenteventcentre.co.uk
We also offer conference and meeting rooms for all your business needs



Transport sector brings cheer helping Kent's economy take off

by **Jamie Weir**

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

AVIATION is leading the way in helping Kent's economy grow according to an aviation expert based at Lydd Airport.

Jonathan Gordon, the founder and managing director of Atlantic Bridge Aviation Limited, says the growth he's seen in the aviation industry is "a sure sign that the economic recovery is in full swing across the UK and Europe."

He told KoS that the sector, more than most, had helped boost economic activity in the county.

He said: "The long-term resilience of air travel to economic recessions and global events like wars and terrorist activity is well-known. It's significant to note after each event the aviation market has rebounded strongly."

"We are in that recovery phase now, with all the recent forecasts by aircraft manufacturers and others indicating healthy traffic growth in air travel in



TRANSPORT: The sector has seen strong growth in both aviation and cross-Channel travel

the UK, Europe and worldwide."

That assessment is borne out by performance at Lydd Airport, which recently announced rising passenger numbers, an increase in aircraft traffic, job creation and investment.

Chief executive at Lydd Charles Buchanan said: "There is a growing

demand at Lydd driven by business and general aviation. In 2014, we handled 10 per cent more passengers and 15 per cent more aircraft movements than the previous year, and this year the trends are continuing."

It's not just aviation which has boosted Kent's economy though;

cross-Channel travel from the Port of Dover has seen significant growth too.

The port announced earlier this week that it had delivered a record year with more than 2.4 million freight vehicles handling goods worth an estimated £100 billion.

Panini team up to score in FA deal

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based sticker company Panini has signed a new four-year deal with the Football Association.

Peter Warsop, group licensing director, said: "The FA agreement completes an important piece of the jigsaw as well as the official tournament rights, for such things as the Euro 2016, England joins other Federations to ensure 100 per cent authenticity."



Kent women make top award shortlist

THREE Kent women have been shortlisted in the Real Business First Women Awards this year.

Sian Holt, of Lyminge-based Fudge Kitchen, Emily Kettle, MD of Ashford's Facts International, and Lisa Scott, of Gourmet Gadgets, all made it through.

www.whitehead-monckton.co.uk



Whitehead
Monckton
the Kent law firm



Will, Estate or Power of Attorney dispute?

Do you have a dispute regarding how a Will, Estate or Power of Attorney has been handled?

Whitehead Monckton has considerable experience in helping clients to resolve these difficult disagreements and in many cases achieving excellent financial results.

We can offer a **'NO WIN – NO FEE'** service for Will, Estate and Power of Attorney disputes.

Call us today on
01622 698031

for an initial no obligation consultation by phone.
E-mail enquiries@whitehead-monckton.co.uk





YOUR local dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR area..**

Here's how to use your mydate24 dating service ...

Place your advert call: **0844 887 2316**

and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To **Reply** to members from your landline call: **0906 515 7112**

calls cost £1.53 per min

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

For a quicker service from your mobile call: **0906 500 5650**

calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network charges

Or **Text.. REPLY2** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date **ONLINE**

YOU can now date online or via your mobile

Simply **VISIT** us at:

www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies on:

0906 515 7114

calls cost £1.53 per min

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million **UK REAL** users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** **www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk**

Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

mydate24

DONNA 36yrs un-moist but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 1912 Box 413399

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 1912 Box 415301

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTm professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0906 500 1914 Box 410291

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4693 Box 414701

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 1915 Box 409901

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks genuine friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for someone broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

SUE 65, 5ft 11ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thant area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630

STU 52, looking for a sincere women to share the long winter nights with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4609904

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTm genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTm sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177

ELAINE 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves wining, dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, no ties, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 417122

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630

STU 52, looking for a sincere women to share the long winter nights with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4609904

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes-only! likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721

TERI separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTm compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361

DEBBIE brown eyed attractive social female, romantic, good listener, loves children, looking for similar nice male/dad to get to know, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414383

ELAINE 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves wining, dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meals, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

ELDERLY Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221

ACTIVE honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

EASY going male, 48, divorced, kids grown up time to meet someone new. Enjoy most things and will give anything ago. Text only Mailbox no: 4646694

TALL male likes meals out, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416899

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meals, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

ELDERLY Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221

ACTIVE honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923



MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416567

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meals, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

ELDERLY Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221

ACTIVE honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

MATURE businessman, seeking slim, independent young female for mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416023

ASIAN male, 68, US educated, seeks black/European female of similar age, discreet, East London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415997

BRITISH white professional male, seeking intelligent, independent Asian/black female, 30-42 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415961

WHITE Spanish male, 42, work full time, seeks African lady, 20-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415941

JOHN 67, gentle, easy going, good natured, seeks affectionate, loving black female, any age for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415913

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

74YR old retired, widowed male, fit, young looking, seeking younger female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415855

LONELY 75yr old male, OHAC, tall, medium build, genuine, loving, kind, seeking lovely kind lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415791

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

» Read more of Steve's
motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit
drive24.co.uk

Powered by **MOTORS**
Search Smart. Buy Right. **co.uk**



Viva the Vauxhall Viva!

Having lain dormant for 35 years and been replaced by the likes of the Astra, Nova, Corsa and latterly Adam, Vauxhall's entry model name is resurrected with the hopes of finding a new five-door city car fan club...

AFTER decades of standardized names for models produced by Vauxhall and German sister brand, Opel, the arrival of a new city car sees them driving apart.

To the Continent it will be known as the Karl; to Brits it will be the Viva – rather fitting for a name rising from the dead.

Viva was axed in 1979 after three generations – the HA, HB and HC – had been a familiar sight on British roads from 1963 as a rival to cars like the Morris Minor and Ford Anglia, latterly being augmented by the Vauxhall Chevette until both models were eventually replaced by the Astra.

But the Astra has got bigger over the years and, first the Corsa supermini – known here initially as the Nova – and then the glitzy Adam three-door mini car were slotted in below it.

Now Vauxhall/Opel clearly see a need for a price-sensitive five-door city car – it will sell for less than £8,000 – to replace the rather more up-right Agila supermini/MPV.

The new Viva is a stylish thing, but the ace up its sleeve is the three-cylinder 1.0-litre turbo-charged engine that made its debut in the latest Corsa and then revitalized the Adam; the inherent roughness of the three-cylinder has been en-



gineered out to leave a light yet powerful unit that is frugal with low emissions yet capable of delivering a punch when required.

For this alone, let alone the newcomer's style, the Viva immediately looks a threat to the established stars of the city car sector: the VW Up and

its cloned sisters, the Skoda Citigo and SEAT Mii, and the sophisticated Hyundai i10.

The Viva's cabin should also be a big plus in this outbreak of city car wars; the Vauxhall is slightly longer than its rivals, suggesting that legroom will be far better.

NOBODY KNOWS HYUNDAI... LIKE KENT HYUNDAI

Choose your deal, call us for a test drive today

**£1000
MINIMUM
PART EXCHANGE***
ON SELECTED MODELS
**HURRY, YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS OUT!**



HYUNDAI i10

Range
starts
from

£7595

Price after £1000 min/px

36 monthly payments of	£99.55	Optional Final Payment	£3,532.50
On the Road Price	£8,595	Mileage per annum	10,000
Customer Deposit	£2,350	Excess Mileage Charge (per mile)	14.9p
Amount of Credit	£6,245	Duration of Agreement	37 months
Interest Charges	£871.30	APR Representative	5.9%
Total Amount Payable	£9,466.30		



HYUNDAI i20

Range starts from

£9695

Price after £1000 min/px

- Door Mirrors with Integrated Indicators • Power Steering
- Split Folding Seats • Body Colour Door Handles & Mirrors
- Daytime Running Lights • Stereo RDS Radio with MP3 Compatibility



HYUNDAI i30

From only

£12695

and from only

Price after £1000 min/px

£219 per month

With £750 Finance Deposit Allowance

View the Hyundai range 24/7 at www.kenthyundai.co.uk



HYUNDAI

Tunbridge Wells Hyundai

Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3UY

01892 520026

Medway Hyundai

1-9 High Street, Chatham ME4 4EN

01634 921316

Fuel consumption MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 83.1 (3.4), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO2 Emissions 231 - 96 g/km.
Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Terms and conditions apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.
Finance subject to status. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request. A guarantee may be required. *Part exchange vehicles must have a minimum of 6 months MOT and be free from mechanical faults.

Celestial Celerio is nicely down to earth

Suzuki shows two cars can go into one by replacing its Alto and Splash models with the clever Celerio, writes **Steve Loader...**

WHERE once they might have had four stock models, car companies have raced to extend their ranges as new niches have opened up – allegedly.

Not so, Suzuki. Like a sniper, the Japanese marque has created a decent market share by picking its targets.

So, where most manufacturers' ranges extend to double figures, Suzuki has just five models, with the new Celerio five-door hatchback (from £7,999) recently replacing not one, but two models, the Alto city car and Splash supermini MPV.

At a stroke, Suzuki has re-created the compactness of the former while delivering much of the latter's space-efficiency.

It's a clever little car that could easily emulate the success of Suzuki's brilliant Swift – pound for pound, possibly the best supermini you can buy.

Indeed, the worse thing about the Celerio is the silly name; it means 'celestial river' but sounds more down to earth – like a salad vegetable – but then, this is a down to earth car.

It won't win any beauty contests,



but it's competitively priced and well-equipped – six airbags, air con, digital radio, Bluetooth and alloys are all standard.

It also costs peanuts to run, with up to 78.4mpg (combined cycle) available and all versions exempt from road tax, and will take four tall adults with ease

plus squeeze a teenager into the back for good measure.

And it will be galling to rivals that, in a city car sector where often pathetic boot space has become a turn-off for some buyers, the Celerio trounces all comers by offering 254 litres – the Ford Fiesta from the class



above hardly puts the Suzuki in the shade with its 290. Fold the 60/40 split rear seats and you also get a near flat load space of 726 litres.

The cabin is neither luxurious nor cheap and could do with some of the razzamatazz of the Peugeot 108, for instance, but it does look durable and

Suzuki Celerio SZ3

Price:	from £7,999
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Skoda Citigo

everything is well organised.

And the precise five-speed gearshift falls nicely to hand.

Which is good, as the Celerio belies its slightly awkward lines by being decent to drive. You can never have your cake and eat it so the car's passenger-friendly height does make it heel into the bends a little, and a 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine rarely excites, especially one of just 67bhp and offering 0-62mph in 14 seconds – no spinnaker supplied I'm afraid.

But the Celerio's weight-saving design makes it feel nimble and well cut out for town centre cut and thrust, even if it isn't that refined when cruising the motorway.

We drove the entry level engine, but the most frugal and lowest emission 'Dualjet' unit is offered for a £500 premium, and there is a Celerio auto model (£9,799).

M IS FOR MORE FOR LESS.

**NEW CORSA
LIMITED EDITION 3DR**
£179 PER MONTH OVER 23 MONTHS
WITH £537 ADVANCE RENTAL

**NEW CORSA
EXCITE 5DR**
£196 PER MONTH OVER 23 MONTHS
WITH £588 ADVANCE RENTAL



Contact us to book your test drive today. ^

Perrys of Sittingbourne

01795 374977

www.perrys.co.uk/sittingbourne-vauxhall

London Road
Sittingbourne
ME9 9AQ



VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa range: Urban: 36.2 (7.8) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 47.1 (6.0) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 140-85g/km.*

Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Limited Edition 1.2 3dr in Flame Red and New Corsa Excite 1.2 5dr in Flame Red on orders received between 8 April and 1 July 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for New Corsa Limited Edition based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £537, then 23 monthly rentals of £179. Excess annual miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 5.53ppm. Figures for New Corsa Excite based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £588, then 23 monthly rentals of £196. Excess annual miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 5.53ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. **You will not own the car.** ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. *Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18+ to qualify for a test drive. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.

Motorline Renault's transformation in Maidstone

Motorline Maidstone has transformed its Renault dealership on Bircholt Road into a state-of-the-art showroom and service centre in line with the French car manufacturer's new corporate global identity.

One of the first UK showrooms to incorporate Renault's new 'Passion for Life' branding, the revamped dealership features the highest standards in showroom design across the 32,000 sq ft facility. Its state-of-the-art workshop includes a series of bespoke built-in cabinets and extensive glass panels that allow customers to view work taking place – helping to create a seamless, integrated customer experience.

The high-tech service centre is equipped with top-level diagnostic equipment and staffed by qualified Renault technicians. From here, Motorline Maidstone offers routine servicing, MOTs and repairs, and everything required by the Renault warranty, including genuine Renault parts.

The facility provides a perfect showcase for Motorline Maidstone's full range of new Renault models and a wide variety of used approved vehicles. As well as popular Renault cars such as the stylish Clio, spacious Captur and Top Gear's City Car of the Year, the New Twingo, the

showroom also features the four-strong range of great value Dacia cars.

In addition, the site offers the Renault Pro+ centre for business customers, a specialist team for fleet vehicles and both Class 4 and Class 7 MOT services. To enhance the whole customer experience – before, during and after the purchase – Motorline Maidstone also provides a comprehensive aftersales service and a variety of courtesy vehicles.

Mark Batt, General Manager at Motorline Maidstone, said: "Motorline Renault has been a big part of the Maidstone community for the past four years. We're really proud of these stunning new facilities, and will continue to offer some of the best deals in the region, as well as outstanding customer service."

"We will be hosting a launch event later in the year, which will be a fantastic opportunity for old and new customers to experience the improved home of Renault in Maidstone."

Founded in 1972, with over 900 employees, Motorline Group has become one of the UK's largest motoring groups, with dealerships located across Kent, West Sussex, Surrey, Bristol and South Wales.



A NEW SHOWROOM WORTH SHOUTING ABOUT



VISIT OUR BRAND NEW SHOWROOM AT MOTORLINE MAIDSTONE
• NEW/USED CARS & VANS • MOTABILITY • SERVICE PARTS •

MOTORLINE MAIDSTONE
BIRCHOLT ROAD, PARKWOOD
MAIDSTONE ME15 9XY
TEL 0844 822 7112

WWW.MOTORLINERENAULT.CO.UK



commercial vehicles

A buyer's guide

Van sales oil wheels of the UK's recovery

BY STEVE LOADER

VAN sales this year are on course for an all-time high, with 97,775 new vehicles registered already from January to March.

That's a 22.3 per cent leap over the same period in 2014 says industry voice the Society of Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and proves that customers

have returned to the market in force as business confidence soars after the recessionary years.

It is good news overall for the UK too: vans oil the wheels of business, construction and manufacturing, so new sales act as a barometer for



ANOTHER PANEL VAN 'NEWBIE': Renault has just launched an all-new Trafic

the economic weather.

However, the strength of the upturn also shows how low the country plunged during recession, with van operators retaining and punishing vehicles by clocking more miles than normal.

As a result, the used van market is full of tired

stock, accelerating the bounce back in the new vehicle market, which gained yet another boost from the 15-plate change in March.

Mike Hawes, the SMMT's chief executive, said demand for the latest vans and trucks is now back to pre-recession levels – outpacing the rest of Europe – and added that increasing demand and manufacture here was also adding to the UK recovery with home and export demand:

"This growth will help return the sector to a stable natural level following major restructuring of the industry in recent years."

LATEST GENERATION: the new Mercedes-Benz Vito small panel van



GREAT FINANCE OFFERS ON TWO NEW FIAT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AT NORTHGATE



DOBLO CARGO
1.3 M-JET DIESEL 90BHP WITH
AN N/S SIDE LOAD DOOR

FEATURES:
ELECTRIC WINDOWS
CENTRAL LOCKING
STEEL BULKHEAD
FULL SIZE SPARE WHEEL

£8,950
+ VAT + RFL

£49
PER WEEK + VAT
NO FINAL
PAYMENT

SCUDO COMFORT
1.1 HI 1.6 M-JET 90 BHP

FEATURES:
ELECTRIC WINDOWS
CENTRAL LOCKING
STEEL BULKHEAD
FULL SIZE SPARE WHEEL
THREE SEATS
TWIN SIDE LOADING DOORS

£11,400
+ VAT + RFL

£60
PER WEEK + VAT
NO FINAL
PAYMENT

NORTHGATE FIAT

WESTMINSTER ROAD, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1YY TEL: 01227 464100 EMAIL: VANSALLES@NORTHGATE-FIAT.CO.UK

WWW.NORTHGATE-GROUP.CO.UK

Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Professional range mpg (l/100km): Urban from 25.9 (10.9) - 64.2 (4.4); Extra Urban from 40.3 (7.0) - 97.4 (2.9); Combined from 33.6 (8.4) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions 90 - 222g/km. Fuel consumption and CO2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Business users only. Whilst stocks last. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Licensed credit brokers. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. Offer based on 48 month lease with no final payment. All prices are plus VAT and Road Fund Licence.

RENAULT VAN RANGE YOUR SUCCESS BOOSTER

WITH 4-YEAR WARRANTY AND RENAULT ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE†



**NEW RENAULT
MASTER RANGE**
FROM £240 PER MONTH*
ON CONTRACT HIRE

**ALL-NEW
RENAULT TRAFIC RANGE**
FROM £185 PER MONTH*
ON CONTRACT HIRE

**NEW RENAULT
KANGOO RANGE**
FROM £150 PER MONTH*
ON CONTRACT HIRE

**NEW RENAULT
KANGOO Z.E. RANGE**
FROM £170 PER MONTH*
ON CONTRACT HIRE

**RENAULT
BUSINESS**

BUSINESS USERS ONLY. All prices exclude VAT. *36-month contract hire based on 10,000 miles (6,000 miles for Kangoo Z.E) and 6+35 profile (6x monthly payment in advance followed by 35 monthly payments for Master, Traffic and Kangoo) and 3+35 profile (3x monthly payment in advance followed by 35 monthly payments) for Kangoo Z.E. At the end of the contract you will not own the vehicle. Further charges may apply subject to the mileage and condition of the vehicle at the end of the contract. Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be 18 or over and a UK resident (excluding Channel Islands) to apply. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of financial providers including Renault Finance. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.renault.co.uk or participating dealer for full details. †Warranty applies to new vehicles up to a period of four years or 100,000 miles (6,000 miles on Kangoo Z.E), whichever comes first (first two years unlimited mileage). Renault Assistance Roadside Cover is provided by our approved roadside assistance partners. Cover from months 0 to 36 includes assistance at the roadside and home, national recovery, onward travel and European cover. Cover from months 37 to 48 includes roadside and Home Start (including a local tow to an authorised Renault dealer). Offers are valid on eligible vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2015.

**TRUST EUROPE'S NO.1
VAN MANUFACTURER**



MOTORLINE MAIDSTONE
BIRCHOLT ROAD, PARKWOOD
MAIDSTONE ME15 9XY
TEL 0844 822 7112

MOTORLINE CANTERBURY
WESTMINSTER ROAD
CANTERBURY CT1 1YY
TEL 0844 822 7100

MOTORLINE ASHFORD
HILTON ROAD
ASHFORD TN23 1EW
TEL 0844 822 7094

WWW.MOTORLINE.CO.UK

Boxing clever

VANS are utility vehicles – boxes to be stuffed with cargo – yet operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers enjoy better performance, refinement and safety.

The latter trends came largely from car-derived designs; lightly modified superminis or family hatchbacks where rear windows were blanked out and back seats removed to make a load space, but with the driver gaining the benefits of the equivalent car owner, including air con and a decent

AWARD WINNER: the versatile Fiat Doblo Cargo

sound system

The philosophy migrated to larger vans, sometimes now derived from better handling platforms of popular cars even if the van body is bespoke.

Load capacities grew, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback courier van or company runabout, right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access improved too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above supermini class now come with a sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take the option of a second 'slider'.

And there is now usually a choice of side-opening twin rear doors or high lift tailgate, while cab doors generally have a



'DUALINER' OPTION INCLUDED: the Mercedes-Benz Citan

reduced opening angle; it's easier then for a busy driver to grab and close the door, or avoid it swinging wide and hitting something... or someone.

Another recent phenomenon is the 'Dualiner' that can seat five and still carry a decent cargo; ideal for companies needing to send a crew on the road plus all their gear, or the owner operator or tradesman who needs to carry his kit on weekdays and the family at weekends.

But it's not just vans that are changing but the way they are sold;



with advantageous lease deals and buying plans, a new van offers the latest comfort levels, lowest operating costs from the latest powertrains, and will make you and new customers feel good about the business.

SMALL YET FLEXIBLE: Peugeot's Bipper



THE NEW PEUGEOT 108 SUPER-PACKED SUPERMINI

108 ACTIVE

- ▶ 7" colour touchscreen
- ▶ Bluetooth®

- ▶ DAB digital radio
- ▶ Manual air conditioning

£79

rental per month
on Passport Personal Lease*

NEW PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE

Meet Peugeot's stylish new supermini that's loaded with features. The New Peugeot 108 offers you a 7" colour touchscreen, Bluetooth®, DAB digital radio, manual air conditioning and much more – all available from only £79 rental per month on Passport Personal Lease*. Just contact us to find out more.

MOTION & EMOTION

ROBINS & DAY MAIDSTONE

Mill Street, MAIDSTONE, ME15 6YD
01622 753333 www.robinsandday-maidstone.co.uk

ROBINS & DAY ROCHESTER

209 High Street, ROCHESTER, ME1 1HF
01634 842231 www.robinsandday-rochester.co.uk



PEUGEOT

Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 108 range are: Urban 52.3 – 62.8 (5.4 – 4.5), Extra Urban 74.3 – 83.1 (3.8 – 3.4), Combined 65.7 – 74.3 (4.3 – 3.8) and CO₂ 99 – 88 (g/km). MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your lease we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. #Passport Personal Lease: A guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Peugeot Citroen Retail UK is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. Finance provided by and written quotations available from PSA Finance UK Ltd t/a Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. All offers available on qualifying vehicles ordered and registered between 01/03/15 and 30/06/15 or until such time as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot at its complete discretion. 108 Active 3dr 1.0 68, customer initial rental £2,079, optional final rental £4,995. 35 monthly rentals payable. 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. If you choose to pay the optional final rental, you can pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals but will not own the car. Ownership is possible with Passport – ask us for details. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Information correct at time of going to press.

Top tips on van buying

- **SIZE it up** – gauging space and weight requirements is crucial for small or start-up businesses, so make sure you opt for a van that can grow with your needs. Conversely, don't rush into a bigger van – it might cripple your fledgling business with higher leasing and operating costs.
- **Access** – do you need one or two side sliding doors, and will you have to unload in cramped spaces that might not cope with a tailgate? Might twin rear doors be better?
- **Powertrain** – you'll probably want a diesel, though electric might be good for your firm's image as well as operating costs if you cover few miles. Opt for an automatic gearbox too, if you often sit in traffic or do lots of stop-start work. Of course, if you cram your van and use all of its weight capacity, consider a bigger engine.
- **Do your research** – don't just go for a brand because you like the cars it makes; the van business is a different ball game.

It's also worth checking models that win awards; van media tend to be hard-nosed about operating costs, convenience and other aspects – awards are well earned

- **Go for a test drive** – as it's a working vehicle, you or a staff member will spend lots of time in it, so it must work well for the driver and be easy to handle and park.
- **Does it look good?** – a crazy question maybe, but appearances can be important to your company image or, the bottom line, if it will be parked outside your house or on the drive – what will the neighbours say, or crucially, 'er indoors?
- **New or used?** – a new van is better for your business image, and there is the promise of greater reliability and no need for an MOT for three years, but it costs more to acquire. A good compromise is to buy a smart used van with warranty from a main dealer though, as we said earlier in this supplement, quality used vans are in short supply post-recession.



PUT IT TO THE TEST: above, can this Peugeot Boxer panel van measure up to your needs?



CHECK THE COSTS: left, does the little Citroën Nemo fit the bill – literally?



CITROËN VANS BUSINESS CLASS

www.citroen.co.uk



CITROËN prefers **TOTAL**

CITROËN BERLINGO HDi 75 manual L1 625 ENTERPRISE

from **£139** Contract Hire monthly rental†

Business users only.

- Payload up to 896kg
- Loadspace up to 3.3m³

WILMOTH'S ASHFORD 01233 640100 www.wilmoths.co.uk
WILMOTH'S CRAYFORD 01322 524555 www.wilmoths.co.uk
WILMOTH'S FOLKESTONE 01303 245588 www.wilmoths.co.uk
WILMOTH'S MAIDSTONE 01622 750442 www.wilmoths.co.uk

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE



†Offers apply to qualifying new Citroën models ordered & delivered 01/01-30/06/15 for business users only, excluding National Fleet customers as defined by Citroën & exclude VAT. Contract Hire rentals shown apply to Citroën Berlingo HDi 75 manual L1 625 Enterprise & an advance rental of £834 will be required followed by 24 monthly rentals on a 2 year agreement of 10,000 miles per annum. Contract Hire rental includes delivery to dealership, Citroën Roadside Assistance, Vehicle Excise Duty & Government First Registration Fee. Metallic paint optional at no extra cost. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Contract Hire rental rates have been calculated with the appropriate manufacturer's support applied to the QTR price. All rentals are subject to VAT at 20%. Citroën Contract Motoring reserve the right to amend any of the rentals quoted without notice. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Over 18s only. Written quotations available on request from Banque PSA Finance UK Branch trading as Citroën Contract Motoring, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Jarrett's Motors Ltd is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. To finance your purchase/lease we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. Finance offers apply to UK only. Offers & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability.



ELECTRIC APPEAL: Renault's Kangoo Van is also available with battery power

Electric arrives but diesel rules roost

HAVING seen off petrol power, diesel is king in the van world. It offers better economy and range, good pulling power low down the rev range, extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and long-lasting parts.

Gearboxes have also changed. A six-speed manual is the norm – two cogs better than just a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway, but are ideal for stop-start town conditions and can be as economical as a manual.

No longer waiting in the wings though is a further option for urban operators – electric power.

The electric van seems made for the city: its instant power delivery is ideal for stop-start traffic and any braking or deceleration simply helps recharge the batteries.

And even if the van's range – more than 100 miles in the case of Renault's Kangoo ZE – is compromised by a demanding day, most urban areas now have convenient quick charging points.

Being zero emission, electric vans also escape road tax and congestion charges, and there's a PR gain if your company wants to project an eco-friendly image.



NO 'OLD SOLDIERS': vans like the latest car-derived Citroën Berlingo now get updated and renewed more often

Fickle finger of fashion arrives in van sector

VANITY has finally reached the van market, according to market watchers at CAP Automotive, who point to the rapid turnover of model designs introduced by manufacturers.

Until now, the van world seemed immune from the pace of change that sees car designs replaced faster and faster; CAP says the shelf life of some car models has halved since the 1970s as manufacturers strive ever harder to keep products as fresh and interesting as possible.

But design changes and new features have

always arrived more slowly in the van market – until now.

CAP's spokesman Tim Cattlin explained: "The days when a van was solely regarded as a work tool are certainly coming to an end. The creep of vanity into the van market is a mixed blessing. It ensures a more dynamic marketplace, with exciting and fresh offerings appearing with increasing regularity.

"But it also threatens faster depreciation as model 'shelf life' begins to shorten and end users are constantly drawn to the newest vehicle on offer."



Minimum part exchange £3,000 on all stock Citan Vans.

Citan Panel Van from £199* per month

Citan Dualiner from £285* per month

Citan Traveliner from £299* per month

Available for immediate delivery

*Terms and conditions apply. Deposit Contribution available when financed with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services.

Finance for BUSINESS USERS ONLY and is subject to status. Monthly payments displayed are based on an Agility finance package with a 20% plus VAT deposit. 48 months term, 12,000 miles per annum. Credit provided subject to status. Offer is subject to terms and conditions. Vehicles must be registered between 26/01/2015 and 31/05/2015. Offer subject to availability. Finance provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. Part Exchange vehicle must be yours to sell and be presented with an invoice, vehicle registration document and at least 60 days' MOT.

Sparshatts of Kent
MERCEDES-BENZ COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DEALER
TRADE IN PLAN CONTINUES SINCE 1970



Mercedes-Benz
Vans. Born to run.

Sparshatts of Kent, Ashford – Dartford – Sittingbourne – Tonbridge, Tel 0844 396 1122 www.sparshatts.co.uk

Call
01895 83 33 33
for bookings
and information

Holidays offered by
**GN Holidays
& Voyages**
Higher Denham,
Uxbridge UB9 5EL
ABTA NoY0291 • ATOL 9362
info@gnvoyages.co.uk
www.gnholidays.com
www.gnvoyages.co.uk
Open 9am to 5.30pm weekdays
9.30am to 12.30pm
Saturdays
Closed Bank Holiday weekends.



Summer Self-Drive Deals

Get out and about on the
coast or in the country



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

1 June	£239pp
6 July	£239pp
13 July	£239pp
17 August	£239pp

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing

June - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, **£239pp** • Quote: CH-KOS

Worthing's Chatsworth Hotel is one of the finest hotels on the south coast. Close to the sea and a short stroll from the town centre, the Chatsworth is a 3-star hotel in a Grade II-listed building, steeped in history with a distinctive Georgian frontage. Well known locally for offering impeccable service and a warm welcome, the hotel has a silver tourism award for quality. A well-stocked games room, has two slate-bedded Snooker tables, a pool table, table tennis, darts and a skittle alley. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Chatsworth Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

6 July	£139pp
27 July	£139pp
3 August	£139pp
10 August	£139pp
24 August	£139pp

Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

July - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, **£139pp** • Quote: BH-KOS

Enjoy a great value, relaxing summer break at Bosworth Hall Hotel, set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. The hotel has a leisure club with an indoor pool, gym, tennis courts, bike hire and more - extra charge applies. There's plenty to see and do within a short drive of Market Bosworth; Twycross Zoo, West Midlands Safari Park and Drayton Manor Park are close by as are Bosworth Water Trust and the National Forest.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

29 June	£209pp
13 July	£209pp
5 Oct	£209pp

3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

7 Aug	£169pp
14 Aug	£169pp
9 Oct	£169pp

Hotel Piccadilly, Bournemouth

June - Oct, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from **£169pp** • Quote: PH-KOS

The Hotel Piccadilly is a privately-owned 3-star hotel situated close to the town centre and a short walk from Bournemouth's award winning beaches. The Hotel is comfortable and stylish with long-serving staff providing warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The Lounges are spacious, yet with quiet corners in which to relax. All the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and colour TV as well as tea and coffee facilities.

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day



3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

7 August	£189pp
14 August	£189pp
21 August	£189pp
28 August	£189pp

Ettington Chase Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, **£189pp** • Quote: EC-KOS

Ettington Chase is a stylish, luxury hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon. Set in 11 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds in the heart of Shakespeare country, Ettington Chase elegantly combines a beautiful historic building with modern facilities including an elegant restaurant bar with a reputation for quality cuisine. All bedrooms are en-suite with wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs. The onsite leisure club with pool, sauna and tennis provides excellent facilities for families enjoying a short breaks.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

18 May	£109pp
8 June	£119pp
15 June	£119pp
22 June	£119pp
6 July	£139pp
13 July	£139pp
20 July	£139pp
3 Aug	£139pp
10 Aug	£139pp
31 Aug	£139pp

3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

5 June	£89pp
19 June	£89pp
23 July	£109pp
17 July	£109pp
7 Aug	£109pp
14 Aug	£109pp

Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone

May-August, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from **£89pp** • Quote: GB-KOS

The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. It is renowned as one of the UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof. Cabaret shows are performed every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages! The Spindles Health Club has an indoor heated Swimming pool, sauna and a state of the art gym (£4 per session payable on site).

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Entertainment every night • Free wifi



3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

7 August	£179pp
14 August	£179pp
21 August	£179pp
28 August	£179pp

4-star Beaumont Estate, Windsor

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, **£179pp** • Quote: BE-KOS

Set in 40 acres of stunning parkland on the edge of historic Windsor, Beaumont Estate is a majestic hotel. There's a vast range of attractions nearby including Windsor Great Park, Legoland, Thorpe Park, Windsor Castle and Windsor Racecourse. The bedrooms are charming, cosy, and thoughtfully furnished to create a relaxing environment after a long day of exploration. All have en-suite facilities and feature wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi



TO ADVERTISE:

TELEPHONE: **01233 653461**

EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**



Male Support, Senior required

To provide personal care for men with learning disabilities and challenging behaviours for our home in Sittingbourne.

Will need to have Diploma in Health & Social Care Level 3, full driving license required. Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent C.V.

Part Time Cook Required

For our home in Sittingbourne.

Hours are

10.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday

Christine Morgan /Administrative Manager

Forward Care (Residential) Ltd

15 Keycol Hill

Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ

Previous applicants need not apply

This post is exempt from the Sex Discrimination Act Section 7 (c and f)

**FURNITURE
SALES CONSULTANT
REQUIRED**

We have a vacancy for a highly motivated Furniture Sales Consultant with knowledge of upholstery, beds and cabinet to join our extremely successful furniture sales team.

If you have a proven track record in retail furniture sales we want to hear from you.

We offer an excellent salary/commission package.

Please apply via email to 'Mark Williams' giving full details of your work history, experience and a little bit about you as a person.

Email: **mark.williams@nasons.co.uk**
For more information about us please check out our website: **www.nasons.co.uk**

jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

Working for Spencer Private Hospitals:

Spencer Private Hospitals recognise and value all of their staff and are committed to developing a well-trained and flexible workforce. As an Investors in People accredited organisation, you can expect a generous holiday allowance, increasing with length of service, company contribution pension scheme, childcare vouchers, my work offers scheme, family and friends discounts on Physiotherapy and Health Screening services as well as uniform and free onsite parking.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse - Ward – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 7/05/2015
Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: **Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager on 01843 234249**

For a job description and application form for this post please visit **www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers**

Alternatively, please contact **Justine Whittle, HR Assistant**

Telephone: **01304 245943** E-mail: **recruitment@spencerhospitals.com**

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

Spencer
PRIVATE HOSPITALS



SET UP A JOB ALERT TODAY
Look local with **jobs24.co.uk**



Hair and Beauty Tutor / Teacher

(Part Time Fixed Term Contract)

2 days a week from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016

Number on roll:
740

Type of School:
11- 16 Mixed High School

Salary:
Thamesview Qualified/ Unqualified Teacher Scale

Closing date:
12th May 2015, 9.00 am

Interviews:
w/c 18th May 2015

Do you want to join an innovative Vocational Team with high aspirations for students? We are seeking to appoint an outstanding practitioner who will work with a committed and inspiring team in raising professional practice and achievement further.

Our ideal candidates will:

- be a consistently good or outstanding teacher;
- be enthusiastic and be able to demonstrate innovative and creative teaching practices;
- be eager to inspire and motivate students to exceed expectations
- have high aspirations for all students, is passionate about learning and can contribute new and creative ideas to subject areas;
- have a proven track record of achievement.

Candidates with teaching/training experience are encouraged to apply, though all experienced industry professionals will be considered. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your teaching skills and to be part of many new initiatives started by our outstanding vocational team. You will be required to deliver the VTCT Hair and Beauty qualification (100% theory).

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our children and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities and bespoke leadership pathways.

'Teachers appreciate the effective professional training programmes which the school has in place to support and develop them.' Ofsted 2014.

'Students are courteous and considerate to each other and to adults and visitors. Their behaviour at break times is excellent and relationships with staff are very strong.' Ofsted 2014

'Students make good progress across the school as a result of the school's careful tracking and additional support.' Ofsted 2014

If you are interested in finding out more about this position please visit our website **www.thamesviewsch.co.uk** or email our HR Manager on **k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk**

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

JOBS MATCHED TO YOUR CV
Look local with **jobs24.co.uk**



Invitation to Supply Taster Morning



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WIDENING YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS PUPILS?

Would you like to find out more about the roles of **Supply Teacher and Supply Teaching Assistant at Abbey Court School**? Why not come alone to our taster morning and discover more about working in a special school . . .



Telephone the school on **01634 338220** or e-mail **office@abbeycourt.medway.school.uk** to reserve a **FREE** place. (Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis)

Visit our school website . . . **www.abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk**

Tuesday 19th May 2015, 9.30 am to 11.30 am

Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP





Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

KOSMEDIA

Telephone: 01233 653465

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 APPLICATION FOR MARINE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that London Array Ltd has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake future Operational and Maintenance (O&M) repairs or replacements on the inter-array cables at London Array Offshore Wind Farm. The Application together with maps showing the location of the wind farm (including cables) may be inspected (between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm) at:

The London Array Management Building
Port of Ramsgate
Military Road
Ramsgate - Kent
CT11 9LG
www.londonarray.com

Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line via the MMOs public register under the Eastern region, application reference MLA/2015/00095, at:
https://marinelicensing.marinemangement.org.uk/mmo/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER

Representations or objections in respect of the Application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed* to marine.consents@marinemangement.org.uk, within **28 days of 1 May 2015** quoting reference MLA/2015/00095.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

*If representations are provided by e-mail and an undeliverable message is received, please post representations to the above address.

Find over...



...pubs in London
on localssearch24.co.uk

localssearch24.co.uk
your trusted local directory

Localsearch24 business database October 2014

Find your next job in London today!



**UPDATED
EVERY HOUR!**

Look local with jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

Turn your photos into a beautifully bound PhotoBook

Get 20% off all PhotoBook orders

From holiday snaps, to baby photos,
wedding albums to birthdays,
cherish all your precious
moments by creating your
own PhotoBook today!

It's quick, it's easy and it's a great way to produce a digitally printed PhotoBook.

From taking that picture on your camera or phone, uploading it onto your computer, to creating and ordering your PhotoBooks online, it couldn't be easier:

Just download the **FREE PhotoBook creator** software and upload your photos, then click to create your PhotoBook. You can tailor make your own colour schemes and create

"different" shaped photo frames and sized books, all within the PhotoBook creator window.

Move photos from page to page, change layouts and add text and captions to your photos. When you are ready, simply click the checkout button and your work of art is shipped straight to your door. You can even add extra copies for family and friends.

Use code
ARCH20



yourPhotoBooks.co.uk
CAPTURE A MOMENT

Visit www.yourphotobooks.co.uk to find out
how to use and make your own PhotoBook.

Kent want win in first home battle

Rob Key determined to lead team to success after early loss



PERFORMANCE: Key said the squad 'weren't good enough' during their loss to Lancashire

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Cricket

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE Spitfire Ground welcomes County Championship cricket back today (May 3), as Kent get their four day fixture against Leicestershire underway.

The county side started their season poorly, being beaten in the first two games they played. Now on home turf, they're hoping to finally secure some victory points.

Ivan Thomas, who has returned from injury this season after a long lay off, told KoS the team was ready.

He said: "We're feeling confident going into the game against Leicestershire. It's a great squad with some proper stars in the dressing room and

the team's coming together so we're pretty upbeat going into this match.

"I've been away from first class cricket for around two and a half years, so it has been tough coming back. The team are great, and I feel like I've earned my place so it's good to be back out there."

The young fast-bowler also says that playing at Kent's home will give the team a bit of an edge going into the game.

He said: "Playing here will make a difference for us. It's a place we're comfortable in, with a good wicket and a pitch we know extremely well."

Kent's first games of the season were against two of the championship's toughest teams; Essex and Lancashire.

The side didn't fare well in either game, with Kent taking a battering against a dominant Lancashire who forced the county side to follow on.

Thomas told KoS that because of that, the squad had even more reason to come out fighting against Leicestershire today.

He said: "We definitely have something to prove in this game.

"At the start of the season, I think we put a lot of pressure on ourselves and as a result we struggled.

"However, during the first two games, we showed glimpses of what we're capable of. We're going to build on it, and get some consistency going in this game."

A win would help to exorcise some of those demons, as well as adding valuable points.

Thomas said: "The league table always matters to us, and obviously we don't want to see ourselves sat at the bottom of it.

"We'll definitely be looking to get points in this game and climb up the table."

County look to spoil Gills' final season outing

GILLINGHAM hold the power of relegation as they come face to face with Notts County today (May 3), with gaffer Justin Edinburgh saying he doesn't want to see County fans celebrating when the game ends.

The Gills will be looking for a strong win to put an end to what has been very much a season of two halves.

The rollercoaster is unlikely to finish when they clash with Notts County though, as they have the potential to send the northern team down.

That means that while the Gills know only too well that they can't rise, Notts will be fighting for their very survival in League One.

Gills boss Edinburgh says that it doesn't matter to him whether County are fighting for their survival,



FLOURISH: Edinburgh wants to finish the season on a high note

al, saying that though some might find that ruthless, it's just part of being a professional.

He said: "We've got a job to do, and there's a lot riding on this game.

"I don't think they'd have any sympathy for us if the roles were reversed. That's part and parcel of being a professional.

"We need to make sure we have a winning mentality in the football club. I really don't want to see their players celebrating on my pitch after the end of the game.

"I want to see our players doing a lap of honour."

The Gills boss said that it was important for the team to take the win in their final game of the season.

He said: "We are just looking to make sure we finish on a high, with a good performance so that people leave here positive, and looking forward to the next campaign."

Kick off at Priestfield is 12.15pm.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Maidstone in cup clash on hallowed ground

THE Stones are off to the home of English rugby, Twickenham, today as they clash with Bridgnorth in the RFU Intermediate Cup final.

The county town club are full of confidence following their trouncing of semi-final opponents Coney Hill, who they beat 44-13.

Bridgnorth found their route to the final more difficult, only winning by four points in a closely fought contest.

Club spokesman Bob Hayton told KoS: "We're supremely confident going in to this match.

"Having spoken to the skipper and manager, we'll be concentrating on playing our game to its full potential, rather than getting too caught up in playing theirs. We'll be setting the agenda, rather than marching to their tune.

"Obviously we are two unbeaten squads, so someone will be leaving disappointed, but I'm confident it won't be us."



UPBEAT: Maidstone RFC feel confident ahead of the game



POINTS: Shakey wants to cement his lead at the top of the table

Byrne on the hunt for wins after Brands

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne has said he will be looking for wins when he takes to the track this weekend in the British Superbike races at Oulton Park.

The Sheppey based racer currently leads the championship table, but says he isn't complacent and is working hard with his team to make sure he's at the front.

He said: "Oulton Park is a great track, it's one of those places where different bikes have different strengths and weaknesses in different areas so I expect it to be

really close there. It would be really nice to come away from Oulton Park with another win or preferably even two as the last one we had at Donington seems like a long time ago now."

Shakey said that his performance at home track Brands Hatch had been a 'kick up the backside'.

He said: "We need to learn from Brands Hatch, regroup, and take steps forward and hopefully get back to the front again. That is the plan for this weekend although I know it won't come easily."

New badge for promoted Stones

MAIDSTONE United have celebrated their promotion into the Vanarama National League South by unveiling a alternative club badge - which will appear on the team's kit - ahead of next season.

The Stones were crowned Ryman Premier champions last Saturday (April 25) after beating East Thurrock 3-2 in their final

match of the season. They've now revealed the new badge, which, says Stones CEO Bill Williams, reflects the club's illustrious heritage.

Williams said: "Those who've followed the Stones for more than 40 years will recognise it from a previous version - it's a retro design fit for 2015 and beyond."

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:



Twitter @KentSport



Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

Representative
0% APR
ON ALL VAUXHALLS

**PLUS 2 YEARS FREE SERVICING
ON SELECTED USED CARS**



14 Plate
Vauxhall Corsa
1.4 SE 5dr

SAVE
OVER **£7,000**
against cost when new £16,000

**ONLY
£8,967**

A Selection of Used Vauxhall

11 61	Vauxhall Agila 1.2 SE 5dr	16,240 miles	£6,900
11 61	Vauxhall Astra 1.4 i VVT 16v E	9,787 miles	£9,000
12 62	Vauxhall Astra 1.4 i VVT 16v S	10,703 miles	£9,839
13 13	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v E	11,500 miles	£9,878
13 63	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v S	13,671 miles	£9,900
14 14	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v S	4,035 miles	£11,400
12 12	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 VVT 16v SRi	18,144 miles	£10,560
11 61	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v SR	23,909 miles	£9,575
13 13	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v SR	7,805 miles	£11,588
12 12	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	17,348 miles	£9,900
12 62	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	14,447 miles	£10,000
13 13	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	12,279 miles	£10,500
14 64	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	205 miles	£14,000
13 13	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.6 i Turbo	11,808 miles	£11,796
13 13	Vauxhall Astra 1.2 i 16v SE	3d 17,650 miles	£7,700
12 12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i 16v SE	5d 36,438 miles	£7,000
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i Energy	3d 8,596 miles	£7,500
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Energy	5dr 16,466 miles	£7,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 15,304 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 13,895 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 13,648 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,839 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,475 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,163 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,223 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,309 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,356 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,929 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,725 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,765 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,828 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,872 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,622 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 8,965 miles	£9,200
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 10,494 miles	£9,000
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 8,406 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 3,416 miles	£9,344
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	5 9,981 miles	£9,144
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 15,595 miles	£8,635
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 13,852 miles	£8,694
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 12,963 miles	£8,724
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 11,811 miles	£8,764
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 9,765 miles	£8,825
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 8,258 miles	£8,881
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 11,947 miles	£7,699
13 63	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 14,871 miles	£7,700
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 10,694 miles	£8,500
11 61	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v	40,563 miles	£10,600
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	19,737 miles	£14,000
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	15,010 miles	£14,288
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	15,161 miles	£15,773
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	16,664 miles	£15,982
12 62	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi 16v T	20,451 miles	£10,339
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	17,667 miles	£15,982
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	16,905 miles	£16,000
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	15,441 miles	£16,000
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,951 miles	£16,122
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,654 miles	£16,132
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,253 miles	£16,253
09 09	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i 16v Desi	45,555 miles	£6,655
10 60	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	57,760 miles	£6,598
12 62	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	19,015 miles	£8,767
12 12	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	6,194 miles	£9,670
11 61	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi eco	FL 33,443 miles	£9,000
13 13	Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v	9,823 miles	£11,717

Chevrolet			
11 61	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 i LT 5dr	29,477 miles	£6,400
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	29,366 miles	£5,700
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	28,591 miles	£5,800
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	28,667 miles	£5,800
11 61	Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1	15,326 miles	£9,300
12 62	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTI Exc	9,303 miles	£9,800
11 61	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 H	24,964 miles	£11,400
Dacia			
14 14	Dacia Duster 1.5 dCi Laureate	16,769 miles	£10,700
14 14	Dacia Duster 1.5 dCi Laureate	12,145 miles	£10,900
Fiat			
13 13	Fiat 500 0.9 TwinAir S 3dr	(st 28,309 miles)	£8,800
Ford			
13 13	Ford B-Max 1.4 Zetec 5dr	4,325 miles	£10,000
13 63	Ford B-Max 1.6 Zetec Powershift	3,004 miles	£11,500
14 14	Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec 5dr	13,581 miles	£11,700
12 12	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3dr	3,773 miles	£8,400
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 19,068 miles	£9,400
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 5,352 miles	£9,500
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 5,803 miles	£9,500
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 27,119 miles	£9,600
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 15,310 miles	£9,800
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	Po 8,172 miles	£9,500
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Powershift	11,009 miles	£8,400
Hyundai			
12 62	Hyundai i10 1.2 Style 5dr	36,678 miles	£6,000
14 14	Hyundai i20 1.2 Style 5dr	3,510 miles	£9,200
14 14	Hyundai i30 1.4 Active 5dr	1,706 miles	£9,700
12 12	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDI 16v Style	17,795 miles	£11,900
12 62	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDI 16v Style	8,446 miles	£13,200
13 13	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi 16v Prem	26,977 miles	£15,300
Kia			
12 12	Kia Cee'd 1.6 CRDi EcoDynamics	27,400 miles	£7,500
12 12	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 2 2WD	5d 29,845 miles	£15,200
11 61	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 2 2WD	5d 71,479 miles	£13,600
12 62	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 3 2WD	5d 14,567 miles	£17,000
MINI			
14 64	MINI Hatch Cooper 1.5 (s/s) Co	1,000 miles	£17,900
Peugeot			
11 61	Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi FAP Allure	13,490 miles	£8,400
11 61	Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDi FAP Activ	20,279 miles	£9,900
12 12	Peugeot Partner Tepee 1.6 HDi	14,315 miles	£8,600
Renault			
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	16,761 miles	£12,600
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	15,520 miles	£12,700
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	13,968 miles	£12,800
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	20,632 miles	£8,700
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	18,523 miles	£8,700
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	16,426 miles	£8,800
11 61	Renault Clio 1.2 16v I-Music	3 22,474 miles	£5,400
Seat			
11 61	Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5dr	22,248 miles	£6,700
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr (star	24,682 miles	£10,900
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr (star	22,846 miles	£11,000
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr (star	22,198 miles	£11,000
Subaru			
14 64	Subaru Forester 2.0 i XE Linea	1,001 miles	£23,916
14 64	Subaru Outback 2.0 D SX Linear	2,000 miles	£25,000
14 64	Subaru XV 2.0 D SE Premium	5dr 1,300 miles	£21,700
Suzuki			
14 14	Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr (Na	11,402 miles	£11,200
Volvo			
11 61	Volvo S40 2.0 SE Lux 4dr	25,619 miles	£8,700
11 61	Volvo S40 2.0 SE Lux 4dr	26,514 miles	£8,800

Audi			
12 12	Audi A1 1.6 TDI Sport Sportback	25,437 miles	£13,900
12 62	Audi A3 1.6 TDI SE 3dr	22,179 miles	£15,400
12 12	Audi A5 2.0 TFSI S Line 3dr	34,733 miles	£20,600
10 60	Audi A5 2.0 TFSI Sportback 5dr	36,360 miles	£11,600
BMW			
13 63	BMW 1 Series 1.6 114d Urban Sp	7,592 miles	£17,300
13 63	BMW 1 Series 1.6 114i Sport Sp	9,995 miles	£14,200
14 14	BMW 1 Series 2.0 116d Sport Sp	2,447 miles	£16,600
11 11	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	17,770 miles	£14,500
11 61	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	30,124 miles	£15,000
11 61	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	17,996 miles	£15,000
12 12	BMW 1 Series 2.0 120d M Sport	24,333 miles	£16,400
12 12	BMW 3 Series 2.0 318i SE 2dr	12,011 miles	£16,100
Land Rover			
11 61	Land Rover Range Rover Sport	3 24,702 miles	£34,500
Infiniti			
12 62	Infiniti M 3.5 V6 GT Premium 4	17,364 miles	£22,600
13 63	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4d	10,637 miles	£20,800
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4d	3,100 miles	£22,000
14 14	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4d	3,465 miles	£26,000
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4d	3,254 miles	£27,400
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4d	2,076 miles	£27,600
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Sport 4dr	3,885 miles	£27,000
14 14	Infiniti Q50 3.5 S Hybrid AWD	8,785 miles	£34,900
14 64	Infiniti Q70 3.5 GT 4dr Hybrid	1,001 miles	£29,000
14 14	Infiniti QX70 3.0 TD S AWD 5dr	10,016 miles	£34,300
MG			
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	2,563 miles	£7,600
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,086 miles	£7,600
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,001 miles	£8,000
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,754 miles	£8,000
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style 5dr	2,500 miles	£8,500
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style 5dr	1,001 miles	£8,500
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style Lux	2,500 miles	£8,200
Nissan			
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	49,427 miles	£10,700
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	13,910 miles	£11,400
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	14,271 miles	£11,800
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	24,861 miles	£11,800
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	8,394 miles	£12,000
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	23,213 miles	£12,300
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	15,679 miles	£12,400
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	11,180 miles	£12,600
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	7,504 miles	£12,800
14 64	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	5,968 miles	£17,100
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Visia 5dr	19,798 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Visia 5dr	6,677 miles	£10,900
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 4,448 miles	£10,200
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 15,744 miles	£10,500
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 5,927 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	P 12,076 miles	£11,400
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Pre	26,069 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5dr	18,396 miles	£9,600
12 62	Nissan Note 1.4 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	8,443 miles	£7,800
11 61	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	16,398 miles	£7,400
11 61	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec 5dr	30,418 miles	£6,000
13 13	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	5,900 miles	£8,300
13 13	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	3,731 miles	£8,400
14 14	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta	7,936 miles	£17,400
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec	5 33,185 miles	£13,200
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec	5 19,026 miles	£13,900
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	15,118 miles	£11,200
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	22,005 miles	£11,300
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	15,633 miles	£11,500
13 13	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	12,957 miles	£11,900
12 62	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 dCi N-Tec+	21,795 miles	£14,800
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Acenta 5dr	20,532 miles	£13,300
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 N-Tec+ 5dr	39,891 miles	£13,600
09 09	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Tekna 5dr	30,867 miles	£10,000
11 61	Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 Acenta 5d	22,307 miles	£12,000
11 61	Nissan Qashqai+2 2.0 dCi Tekna	50,296 miles	£17,100

Barnes Auto Store



Part of
FGBarnesGroup
Delivering excellence since 1899

Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone
Kent ME15 9YF
Telephone: 01622 755531
www.barnesautostore.co.uk



EASY TO FIND WITH
SATELLITE NAVIGATION

JUST ENTER
THE POSTCODE
ME15 9YF

N 51 14 E 00 33



Car shown for illustration purposes only. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff. CF15 7YT. You will not own the vehicle until all repayments are made. Please ask for further details.